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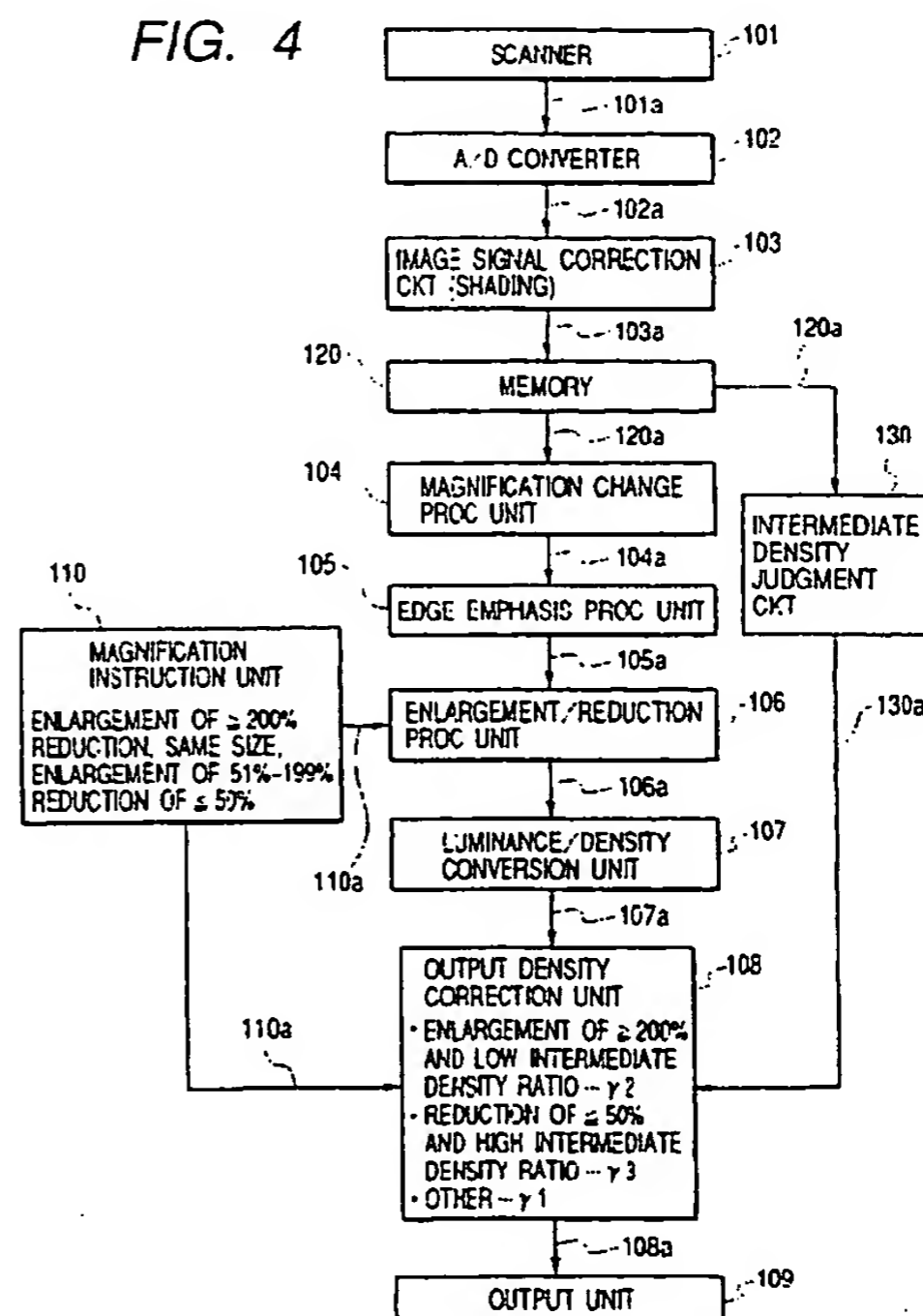
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## (54) Image processing device and image processing method

(57) There is disclosed an image processing device for performing a conversion processing of image data, comprises an input unit for inputting image data, an enlargement/reduction magnification setting unit for setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by the input unit, a data converting unit having a plurality of image data conversion tables and using one selected conversion table to convert the inputted image data to output data, and a table selecting unit for selecting the conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting unit. In the enlargement/output of the image by the image processing, the edge portion of output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be enhanced.

FIG. 4



## Description

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to an image processing device and an image processing method which can be applied to image forming devices such as a digital copying machine, and a facsimile machine, and in which a conversion processing is performed on image signals.

#### Related Background Art

[0002] In general, in image forming devices such as a digital copying machine, and a facsimile device, first, light reflected by an original is received and converted to an electric signal by CCD, and the like, and a resulting analog luminance signal is converted to a digital luminance signal by A/D converter, and the like, so that a multivalued luminance signal of an original image is obtained.

[0003] Next, for example, by referring to a luminance/density conversion table prepared beforehand, the original image signal is converted to a multivalued image density signal based on luminance/density conversion information.

[0004] Moreover, it is assumed that a user desires to enlarge or reduce an image, and selects and sets an enlargement/reduction magnification by operating an external key or the like. In this case, after enlarging/reducing an image luminance signal, the signal is converted to a multivalued image density signal by referring to a luminance/density conversion table.

[0005] For example, an output density correction table is used to convert the resulting image density signal to the image density signal corresponding to a printer characteristic, and the converted image density signal is outputted via a printer. This is applied to the digital copying machine.

[0006] Moreover, the resulting image density signal is converted to the output density signal suitable for an image resolution, for example, using the output density correction table. Subsequently, the signal is converted to binary data, which is further subjected to a predetermined compression processing, and then transmitted to a reception device via a communication channel or the like. This is applied to the device on the facsimile transmission side.

[0007] Furthermore, depending on the type of the original image, the image density signal is set to have a higher density than the actual original density so that image quality is enhanced in some cases, and only a low density portion is set to have a dropped density as compared with the actual original density so that the image quality is enhanced in other cases.

[0008] For example, the former cases represent char-

acter originals, and the latter cases represent photograph originals. In this case, when the user sets the type of the original as a mode, the luminance/density conversion table, or the output density correction table is changed in accordance with the mode.

[0009] Moreover, based on the mode set by the user, a luminance/output density conversion table (a table to input luminance data and output density data) for the mode is first calculated from the luminance/density conversion table and the output density correction table to prepare LUT (lookup table). By referring to the data, data conversion is implemented for output or transmission. This is also known.

[0010] However, the above-described conventional examples have the following problems.

[0011] When the image is enlarged/outputted, by the enlarged image processing, the resolution of output image is apparently deteriorated as compared with the resolution of input image, so that the edge portion of the image signal is blurred.

[0012] This respect will be described with reference to Figs. 14A to 14C. When the image of Fig. 14A is subjected to 200% enlargement (Fig. 14C), the image edge portion is also doubled, and the outputted image seems to be blurred.

[0013] Moreover, when the image is reduced/outputted, for intermediate-gradation density fine lines, and the like within the input image, the value of the output image signal is lowered by the reduced image processing in some cases.

[0014] These cases will also be described with reference to Figs. 14A to 14C. When the image of Fig. 14A is subjected to 50% reduction (Fig. 14B), assuming that the output resolution is doubled as compared with the reading resolution, the image edge portion also becomes half, so that the intermediate gradation area in the outputted image is largely decreased.

[0015] In this case, if the reading resolution is substantially equal to the output resolution, the image is thinned out, so that the intermediate gradation is eliminated in some cases.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0016] A concern of the present invention is to remove the defects of the above-described conventional art and to provide an image processing device and an image processing method in which by selecting a conversion table for converting input image data to output image data in accordance with an enlargement/reduction magnification, an image quality can be prevented from being deteriorated by an enlargement or reduction processing with a simple constitution.

[0017] According to the present invention, there is provided an image processing device, comprising: input means for inputting image data; enlargement/reduction magnification setting means for setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by

the input means; data converting means having a plurality of image data conversion tables and using one selected conversion table to convert the inputted image data to output data; and table selecting means for selecting the conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means.

**[0018]** Moreover, according to the present invention there is provided an image processing method, comprising: an input process of inputting image data; an enlargement/reduction magnification setting process of setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by the input process; a data converting process having a plurality of image data conversion tables and using one selected conversion table to convert the inputted image data to output data; and a table selecting process of selecting the conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting process.

**[0019]** Furthermore, according to the present invention there is provided an image processing device, comprising: input means for inputting image data; enlargement/reduction magnification setting means for setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by the input means; table calculating means for calculating a conversion table for converting input image data to output image data; and data converting means using the conversion table calculated by the calculating means to convert the inputted image data to output data. The table calculating means calculates the conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means.

**[0020]** Additionally, according to the present invention there is provided an image processing method, comprising: an input process of inputting image data; an enlargement/reduction magnification setting process of setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by the input process; a table calculating process for calculating a conversion table for converting input image data to output image data; and a data converting process for using the conversion table calculated by the calculating process to convert the inputted image data to output data. The table calculating process comprises calculating the conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting process.

**[0021]** Another concern of the present invention is to provide an image processing device and an image processing method in which when an enlargement magnification is set to a predetermined value or more, data conversion is performed using a conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is enlarged with respect to the change amount of input image data, so that an edge portion can be prevented from being blurred during an enlargement processing.

**[0022]** Still another concern of the present invention is to provide an image processing device and an image processing method in which when a reduction magnification is set to a predetermined value or less, data conversion is performed using a conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is reduced with respect to the change amount of input image data, so that the reproducibility of intermediate-density fine lines during a reduction processing can be enhanced.

**[0023]** Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the figures thereof.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0024]** The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the constitution of an image processing device according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a characteristic diagram showing the values of an output density correction table;

Figs. 3A, 3B and 3C are explanatory views showing the density gradation of an image edge portion during enlargement/reduction in a primary manner;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the image processing device according to a second embodiment;

Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the image processing device according to a third embodiment;

Fig. 6 is a characteristic diagram showing the values of the output density correction table according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention, and simultaneously showing two types of tables converted in the primary manner;

Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the image processing device according to the fourth embodiment;

Fig. 8 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the image processing device according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a characteristic diagram showing the values of a luminance/density correction table;

Fig. 10 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the image processing device according to a sixth embodiment;

Fig. 11 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the image processing device according to a seventh embodiment;

Fig. 12 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the image processing device according to an

eighth embodiment;

Fig. 13 is a characteristic diagram showing the values of the output density correction table according to the eighth embodiment of the present invention, and simultaneously showing two types of tables converted in the primary manner; and

Figs. 14A, 14B and 14C are explanatory views showing the density gradation of the image edge portion during enlargement/reduction in a conventional example.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

**[0025]** Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described in detail in accordance with the accompanying drawings.

[First Embodiment]

**[0026]** The first embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 1, 2, 3A, 3B and 3C.

(Outline)

**[0027]** First, the outline of the first embodiment will be described.

**[0028]** According to the first embodiment, an image processing device comprises a scanner 101 for inputting an image density signal, an image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing an image signal, an enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106, and an output density correction unit 108 for correcting the image density signal to provide a density signal appropriate for an image forming device and an output resolution. The device is provided with a plurality of output density correction tables for use as the output density correction unit 108, and the output density correction table is changed in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110.

**[0029]** Moreover, the device is provided with a plurality of output density correction tables as the output density correction unit 108, and the output density correction table is changed only during enlargement in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110.

**[0030]** A concrete example will be described hereinafter.

**[0031]** Fig. 1 shows the constitution of the image processing device according to the first embodiment, and an image processing flow.

**[0032]** A scanner 101 for reading an original is constituted of CCD (solid image pick-up element) image sen-

sor, or a CS (contact sensor). Numeral 101a denotes an analog video signal outputted from the scanner 101.

**[0033]** First, the analog video signal 101a as analog image data read by the scanner 101 is quantized to form digital image data 102a of eight bits by an A/D converter 102. Additionally, the digital image data comprises luminance data. Moreover, for the number of gradations, there are 256 gradations. The luminance of white paper mainly used by a user comprises 255 data, and the darkness when a scanner lamp is turned off is set to 0.

**[0034]** The luminance data 102a from the A/D converter 102 is corrected by an image signal correction circuit 103 in the sensitivity nonuniformity of CCD or CS of the scanner 101 and shading strain as the strain of light distribution characteristic of a light source. Shading correction includes the correction of light distribution characteristic among pixels of CCD in every operation, and the adjustment of the analog signal intensity of the entire CCD when a change occurs in an original lighting system by durability or the like. At this time, original image data 103a is completed. The obtained image data comprises multivalued luminance data quantized at the ratio of eight bits per pixel.

**[0035]** Moreover, since the reading unit and output unit of CCD or CS have different resolutions, resolution conversion by a magnification change processing, and a necessary magnification change processing are simultaneously performed. Specifically, a magnification change processing unit 104 performs the magnification change processing on the image data 103a to match the resolution of the output unit, thereby obtaining data 104a.

**[0036]** Thereafter, an edge emphasis processing unit 105 performs an edge emphasis processing to optimize the reproducibility of a character or image line width, and the sharpness of an image end portion. Image data 105a is obtained in this manner.

**[0037]** Subsequently, if the user presets an original enlargement/reduction processing in the magnification instruction unit 110, the image data 105 is subjected to an enlargement/reduction processing by the enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 in accordance with a magnification 110a. Image data 106a is obtained in this manner.

**[0038]** A luminance/density conversion unit 107 for converting luminance data to density data is constituted of an LUT as a conversion table. Standard luminance/density conversion is close to the removing of Log from luminance value. The conversion table is constituted of ROM or RAM. Additionally, either the inputted image data 106a or outputted density data 107a is data of eight bits.

**[0039]** The output density correction unit 108 for correcting the density data 107a converted by the luminance/density conversion unit 107 is constituted of a plurality of output density correction tables such as LUT and a calculation circuit. Moreover, the output density correction table is constituted of ROM or RAM. In the

example, a plurality of LUT's are prepared and stored in a memory.

[0040] Fig. 2 represents a graph of characteristic LUT's stored in the output density correction unit 108, and the tables are designated as  $\gamma_1$ ,  $\gamma_2$ ,  $\gamma_3$  to facilitate the description. Character  $\gamma_1$  denotes a standard output density correction table,  $\gamma_2$  denotes a table in which a high density section is emphasized so that the section is reproduced as close to black as possible, and  $\gamma_3$  denotes a table reverse to  $\gamma_2$ , which is set to enhance the reproducibility of intermediate density.

[0041] Here, when the user does not set the enlargement/reduction processing of the original, or when the enlargement/reduction setting is in the range of 51% to 199%,  $\gamma_1$  is selected as LUT, and the image density is converted. Subsequently, when the enlargement processing of 200% or more is selected, the density is converted by  $\gamma_2$ . When the reduction processing of 50% or less is selected, density is converted by  $\gamma_3$ . Thereafter, density data 107a is outputted. Specifically, the output density correction unit 108 selects the table in accordance with the magnification data 110a from the magnification instruction unit 110.

[0042] In this case, the positional relation between the outputted density data and the edge portion results in Figs. 3A to 3C. Additionally, Figs. 3A to 3C will be described in comparison with Figs. 14A to 14C of the above-described conventional art.

[0043] In the conventional example, as shown in Figs. 14A to 14C, in the 200% enlargement, when the intermediate gradation is enlarged as it is, the intermediate gradation is obtained over a wide area (area of position X1 or more), and the image edge portion is dimmed. Conversely, in the 50% reduction, since the image edge portion has a steep density change, the reproduction of the intermediate gradation becomes poor.

[0044] On the other hand, in the example, as shown in Figs. 3A to 3C, in the 200% enlargement, since the input/output density is converted by the values  $\gamma_2$  of LUT which make steep the conversion, the image fuzz can be alleviated by narrowing the intermediate gradation area (area of position X2 or more). Moreover, in the 50% reduction, since the input/output density is converted by the values  $\gamma_3$  of LUT which moderate the intermediate gradation, the quality of the intermediate gradation is kept.

[0045] Additionally, the above-described image processing device can be applied, for example, to a digital copying machine as the image forming device. In this case, the output density is corrected, and additionally the conversion to a laser drive signal is performed in the output density correction unit 108. The conversion of the drive signal is considered in the output density correction table. Subsequently, image density data 108a is sent to an output unit 109.

[0046] The printer for recording the image on paper or the like can be used as the output unit 109, which can be constituted of a laser beam printer in this case.

[0047] When the output unit 109 is constituted by a heat transfer system, an ink jet system, and the like, the conversion to the drive signals is performed in the output density correction unit 108.

5 [0048] Moreover, when the device is applied to facsimile, during the conversion in the output density correction unit 108, the image density data 108a is converted to an output density signal suitable for an image resolution, further converted to binary data, and subjected to a predetermined compression processing. Subsequently, the data is transmitted to a reception device via a communication channel or the like. Then, the facsimile (output unit 109) on the reception side outputs an image.

10 [0049] Furthermore, based on the mode set by the user, a luminance/output density conversion table for the mode at that time is first calculated from a luminance/density conversion table and an output density correction table to prepare LUT. The LUT is used to perform output or transmission in some cases.

15 [0050] Additionally, one conversion unit may be formed by combining the luminance/density conversion unit 107 and the output density correction unit 108, and the unit may have a conversion table which is formed by combining the luminance/density conversion table and the output density correction table.

20 [0051] Moreover, in the example, the output density correction table is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this example, and the table may properly be used for more cases.

25 [0052] As described above, by preparing a plurality of output density correction tables for use as the output density correcting means, and changing the output density correction table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means, when the image is enlarged/outputted, the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines, and the like in the input image can be enhanced.

30 [0053] Moreover, by preparing a plurality of output density correction tables as the output density correcting means, and changing the output density correction table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means only during the enlargement, when the image is enlarged/outputted, the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. The image can be enlarged without largely deteriorating the image quality.

35 The table  $\gamma_2$  of Fig. 2 is used during the enlargement of 200% or more, and the table  $\gamma_1$  is used in the other cases.

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[Second Embodiment]

[0054] The second embodiment of the present invention will be described. Additionally, the same portion as that of the first embodiment is denoted by the same reference numeral, and the description thereof is omitted.

(Outline)

[0055] The outline of the second embodiment will first be described.

[0056] The second embodiment of the present invention comprises the scanner 101 for inputting the image density signal, an intermediate density judgment circuit 130 for detecting the area or ratio of an intermediate density portion occupying the image, the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing the image signal, the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106, and the output density correction unit 108 for correcting the image density signal to provide the density signal appropriate for the image forming device and the output resolution. The device is provided with a plurality of output density correction tables for use as the output density correction unit 108, and the output density correction table is changed in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, and the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image.

[0057] A concrete example will be described hereinafter.

[0058] The second embodiment is different from the first embodiment in that it is provided with the means for detecting the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image outputted by the image processing device, and is the same as the first embodiment in the other constitutions.

[0059] Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing the constitution of the second embodiment. The same constituting elements as those of Fig. 1 are denoted by the same reference numerals.

[0060] In Fig. 4, a memory 120 stores data for one screen. The intermediate density judgment circuit 130 judges based on data 120a from the memory whether the ratio of the intermediate density portion is high or less.

[0061] In a judgment method, the number of pixels as luminance signal values corresponding to a predetermined density area (e.g., 0.3 to 1.0 in terms of logarithm reflection density) in a multivalued image signal. Specifically, if the image luminance signal multivalued in the range of 0 to 255 indicates the luminance signal values of the density portion of 1.50 to 0.07, the number of pixels having the luminance signal values in the range of 20 to 138 may be counted.

[0062] Additionally, when the counted number of pix-

els of the intermediate density portion does not exceed 30% of 1.5 million pixels in one screen, it is judged that the ratio of the intermediate density portion is small.

[0063] The output density correction unit 108 selects the output density correction table in accordance with data 130a indicating the magnitude of the ratio of the intermediate density portion detected in this manner, and further the data 110a indicating the set enlargement/reduction ratio.

[0064] In the output density correction unit 108, when the enlargement processing of 200% or more is selected, and additionally the ratio of the intermediate density portion is low,  $\gamma_2$  is selected as LUT. Moreover, when the reduction processing of 50% or less is selected, and the ratio of the intermediate density portion is high,  $\gamma_3$  is selected as LUT, the image is thus processed, and the density data 108a is outputted.

[0065] In the other settings,  $\gamma_1$  is selected, and the image density is converted.

[0066] As described above, even when the enlargement ratio is high,  $\gamma_2$  is selected particularly for the original in which the ratio of the intermediate density portion is low (the ratio of characters is high), so that intermediate gradation reproducibility can be prevented from being deteriorated with respect to the original having many intermediate gradation images, and character edges can clearly be reproduced with respect to a character original.

[0067] Furthermore, even when the reduction ratio is high,  $\gamma_3$  is selected for the original in which the ratio of the intermediate density portion is high, so that the edges can be prevented from being blurred with respect to the original with many characters, and the reproducibility of the intermediate density portion can be enhanced with respect to the photograph original.

[0068] In the example, the output density correction table is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this example, and the table may properly be used in more cases.

[0069] Moreover, the ratio of the intermediate gradation density portion may be divided not only at 30%, but also more finely for judgment, before changing the table.

[0070] As described above, by preparing a plurality of output density correction tables for use as the output density correcting means, and changing the output density correction table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means, and the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image, when the image is enlarged/outputted, the reproducibility is prevented from being degraded with respect to the original with many intermediate gradation images, and the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, edge blur is prevented with respect to the original with

many characters. Even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines, and the like in the input image can be enhanced.

#### [Third Embodiment]

[0071] The third embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Fig. 5. Additionally, in Fig. 5, the same portion as that of each above-described embodiment is denoted by the same reference numeral, and the description thereof is omitted.

[0072] According to the third embodiment, there is provided a density output characteristic selection switch 140 as selecting means which can select the relation of the density of the original image and the density of the image outputted by the image processing device (hereinafter referred to as the density output characteristic). The density output characteristic by the density output characteristic selection switch 140 is selected from two types of modes, a character mode and a photograph mode.

[0073] In the output density correction unit 108, the output density correction table is selected in accordance with mode data 140a from the density output characteristic selection switch 140, and further the data 110 indicating the set enlargement/reduction ratio.

[0074] In the output density correction unit 108, only when the enlargement processing of 200% or more is selected, and the character mode is selected,  $\gamma_2$  is selected as LUT. Only when the reduction processing of 50% or less is selected, and the photograph mode is selected,  $\gamma_3$  is selected as LUT, the image is thus processed, and the density data 107a is outputted.

[0075] In the other settings,  $\gamma_1$  is selected, and the image is processed.

[0076] In the third embodiment, the output density correction table is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this embodiment, and the table may properly be used for more cases.

[0077] As described above, according to the third embodiment, since even at a high magnification ratio,  $\gamma_2$  is selected with respect to the original in which the character mode is selected, the intermediate gradation reproducibility can be prevented from being degraded with respect to the original of the intermediate gradation image, and the character edges can clearly be reproduced.

[0078] Furthermore, since even at a high reduction ratio,  $\gamma_3$  is selected with respect to the original in which the photograph mode is selected, the edge can be prevented from being blurred with respect to the original having many characters, and the reproducibility of the intermediate density portion can be enhanced with respect to the photograph original.

#### [Fourth Embodiment]

[0079] The fourth embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 6 and 7.

#### (Outline)

[0080] The outline of the fourth embodiment will first be described.

[0081] The device of the fourth embodiment comprises the scanner 101 for inputting the image density signal, the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing the image signal, the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106, and the output density correction unit 108 for correcting the image density signal to provide the density signal appropriate for the image forming device and the output resolution. In the device, data calculation unit 150 has an output density correction table, subjects the values of the output density correction table to a primary conversion in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 to change the values of the output density correction table, and writes the changed data into the LUT of the output density correction unit 108.

[0082] Moreover, in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, the data calculation unit 150 applies the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the output density is enlarged with respect to the change amount of the input density of the output density correction table during enlargement, or applies the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the output density is reduced with respect to the change amount of the input density of the output density correction table during reduction.

[0083] A concrete example will be described hereinafter with reference to Fig. 7. In Fig. 7 the same constituting elements as those of Fig. 1 are denoted by the same reference numerals, and the description thereof is omitted.

[0084] In the example, in the output density correction unit 108 for converting the inputted image density data to the output density data, the conversion table of LUT from the data calculation unit 150 is stored in a memory.

[0085] In Fig. 6, solid-line data represents LUT of output density correction in a graph. Solid-line ( $\gamma$ ) data is stored in the data calculation unit 150.

[0086] When the user does not set the enlargement/reduction processing of the original in the magnification instruction unit 110, or when the enlargement/reduction setting is in the range of 51% to 199%, the data calculation unit 150 writes the solid-line  $\gamma$  data of Fig. 6 into LUT of the output density correction unit 108 as it is, and

the output density correction unit 108 performs density conversion based on the data.

[0087] When the user selects the enlargement processing of 200% or more in the magnification instruction unit 110, the data calculation unit 150 calculates ( $\gamma'$ ) data from the stored ( $\gamma$ ) data by primary conversion by the following equation:

$$(\gamma') = C(\gamma) + D,$$

in which  $C > 1$ , and  $D$  is an arbitrary constant.

The ( $\gamma'$ ) data obtained by the calculation is data to make steep the conversion of input/output density as shown by a dashed line of Fig. 6.

[0088] The data is written into the LUT of the output density correction unit 108, and the output density correction unit 108 converts the density based on the written data.

[0089] When the user selects the reduction processing of 50% or less in the magnification instruction unit 110, the data calculation unit 150 calculates ( $\gamma''$ ) data from the stored ( $\gamma$ ) data by the primary conversion by the following equation:

$$(\gamma'') = A(\gamma) + B,$$

in which  $A < 1$ , and  $B$  is an arbitrary constant. The ( $\gamma''$ ) data obtained by the calculation is data to make moderate the conversion of input/output density in the intermediate density portion as shown by a broken line of Fig. 6.

[0090] The data is written into the LUT of the output density correction unit 108, and the output density correction unit 108 converts the density based on the written data.

[0091] In the fourth embodiment, density gradation comprises 256 gradations of eight bits. Therefore, when the output value is 0 or less, the gradation is set to 0. When the value is 255 or more, the gradation is set to 255.

[0092] The density data converted as described above is outputted as the density data 108a.

[0093] In this case, the positional relation of the outputted density data and the edge portion is very similar to that of the first embodiment (see Figs. 3A to 3C).

[0094] In the fourth embodiment, the primary conversion is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this embodiment, and the conversion may properly be used for more cases.

[0095] As described above, by applying the primary conversion to the values of the output density correction table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 to change the values of the

output density correction table, the storage capacity of the table can be reduced. Additionally, in the enlargement/output of the image, the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be enhanced.

[0096] Moreover, in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, by applying the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the output density is enlarged with respect to the change amount of the input density of the output density correction table during enlargement, or by applying the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the output density is reduced with respect to the change amount of the input density of the output density correction table during reduction, the table storage capacity can be reduced. Additionally, in the enlargement/output of the image, the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be enhanced.

[0097] A modification formed by combining the second and fourth embodiments will next be described.

[0098] The modification comprises the scanner 101 for inputting the image density signal, the intermediate density judgment circuit 130 for detecting the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image, the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing the image signal, the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106, and the output density correction unit 108 for correcting the image density signal to provide the density signal appropriate for the image forming device and the output resolution. The data calculation unit 150 has an output density correction table, and subjects the values of the output density correction table to the primary conversion in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 and the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image to change the values of the output density correction table for use in the output density correction unit 108.

[0099] The above-described image processing can realize the same effect as that of the second embodiment with a small memory storage capacity.

[0100] Specifically in the modification, in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, when during the enlargement the area or ratio of

the intermediate density portion is small, the primary conversion is applied to the table values so that the change amount of the output density is enlarged with respect to the change amount of the input density of the output density correction table. Moreover, when during reduction the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion is large, the primary conversion is applied to the table values so that the change amount of the output density is reduced with respect to the change amount of the input density of the output density correction table. Thereby, in the case of the enlargement/output of the image, the edge portion of the output print image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing.

#### [Fifth Embodiment]

[0101] The fifth embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 8 and 9. Additionally, the description of the same portion as the above-described portion of Fig. 1 is omitted, and the portion is denoted by the same reference numeral.

#### (Outline)

[0102] The outline of the fifth embodiment will first be described.

[0103] The fifth embodiment comprises the scanner 101 for inputting the luminance signal of the original image, the luminance/density conversion unit 107 for converting the luminance signal to the density signal based on luminance/density conversion information, the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing the image signal, and the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106. The luminance/density conversion unit 107 is provided with a plurality of luminance/density conversion table, and can change the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110.

[0104] Moreover, there are a plurality of luminance/density conversion tables as luminance/density conversion information, and the luminance/density conversion table is changed in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means only during enlargement.

[0105] A concrete example will be described hereinafter.

[0106] Only different portions between the device of Fig. 8 and the above-described device of Fig. 1 in the first embodiment will be described.

[0107] The luminance/density conversion unit 107 for converting luminance data to density data is constituted of the conversion table of LUT. The conversion table is

constituted of ROM or RAM.

[0108] Additionally, each of the inputted image data 106a and the outputted density data 107a is a data of eight bits. In the example, a plurality of LUT's are prepared, and stored in the memory.

[0109] Fig. 9 shows characteristic LUT's in a graph, and they are named as L1, L2, L3 to facilitate the description. In Fig. 9, L1 shows standard luminance/density conversion, the value is close to a luminance value with Log removed therefrom, and L2 is emphasized so that the low luminance portion is reproduced as black as possible. In reverse to L2, L3 is determined so as to enhance the reproducibility of the intermediate density.

[0110] Here, when the user does not set the enlargement/reduction processing of the original, or when the enlargement/reduction setting is in the range of 51% to 199%, L1 is selected as LUT, and the image is processed. Subsequently, when the enlargement processing of 200% or more is selected, L2 is selected. When the reduction processing of 50% or less is selected, L3 is selected, the image is thus processed, and the density data 107a is outputted.

[0111] In this case, the positional relation of the outputted density data and the edge portion is as shown in the above-described Fig. 3. Additionally, in the example, comparison is performed using Figs. 14A to 14C in the same manner as in the above-described first example.

[0112] In the conventional example, as shown in Figs. 14A to 14C, in the 200% enlargement, when the intermediate gradation is enlarged as it is, a wide area is in the intermediate gradation, and the image edge portion seems to be blurred. Moreover, in the 50% reduction, since the density of the image edge portion changes rapidly, the reproduction of the intermediate gradation becomes poor.

[0113] On the other hand, in the example, as shown in Fig. 3 described above, in the 200% enlargement, since the conversion is performed with the value L2 of LUT to make steep the luminance/density conversion, the image blur can be alleviated by narrowing the intermediate gradation area. Moreover, in the 50% reduction, since the luminance/density conversion is performed with the value L3 of LUT to make moderate in the intermediate gradation, the quality of the intermediate gradation is kept.

[0114] The image density data 107a is sent to the output unit 109. This is a printer for recording the image on paper or the like. This printer is constituted of a thermal transfer system, a laser beam system, or an ink jet system which is used in an ordinary recording device.

[0115] Moreover, when the device is applied to facsimile, the image density data 107a is subjected to a binarizing processing, then to a predetermined compression processing. Subsequently, the data is transmitted to the reception device via the communication channel or the like. Then, the image is outputted by the facsimile (output unit 109) on the reception side.

[0116] In the example, the luminance/density conver-

sion table is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this example, and the table may properly be used for more cases.

**[0117]** As described above, by preparing a plurality of luminance/density conversion tables as luminance/density conversion information, and changing the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means, in the enlargement/output of the image, the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be enhanced.

**[0118]** Moreover, by preparing a plurality of luminance/density conversion tables as the luminance/density conversion information, and changing the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means only during the enlargement, in the enlargement/output of the image, the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. The image can be enlarged without largely deteriorating the image quality. The table L2 of Fig. 9 is used during the enlargement of 200% or more, and the table L1 is used in the other cases.

#### [Sixth Embodiment]

**[0119]** The sixth embodiment of the present invention will be described. Additionally, the description of the same portion as the above-described portion of Fig. 4 is omitted, and the portion is denoted by the same reference numeral.

#### (Outline)

**[0120]** The outline of the sixth embodiment will first be described.

**[0121]** The device of the sixth embodiment comprises the scanner 101 for inputting the luminance signal of the original image, the luminance/density conversion unit 107 for converting the luminance signal to the density signal based on luminance/density conversion information, the intermediate density judgment circuit 130 for detecting the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image, the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing the image signal, and the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106. In the device, the luminance/density conversion unit 107 is provided with a

plurality of luminance/density conversion table, and can change the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification 110a set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 and the data 130a indicating the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image.

**[0122]** Moreover, the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 indicates an enlargement magnification, and the luminance/density conversion table may be changed only when the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion is small.

**[0123]** A concrete example will be described hereinafter.

**[0124]** The sixth embodiment is different from the fifth embodiment in that it is provided with the means for detecting the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image outputted by the image processing device, and is the same as the fifth embodiment in the other constitutions. Moreover, the memory 120 and the intermediate density judgment circuit 130 have the same constitutions as those of the second embodiment.

**[0125]** The intermediate density judgment circuit 130 counts the number of pixels as the luminance signal values corresponding to the predetermined density area (e.g., 0.3 to 1.0 in terms of the logarithm reflection values) in the multivalued image signal. Specifically, if the image luminance signal multivalued in the range of 0 to 255 represents the luminance signal value of the density portion of 1.50 to 0.07, the number of pixels with the luminance signal values of 20 to 138 may be counted.

**[0126]** Additionally, when the counted number of pixels of the intermediate density portion does not exceed 30% of 1.5 million pixels in the entire one screen, it is judged that the ratio of the intermediate density portion is small.

**[0127]** The luminance/density conversion unit 107 selects the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the data 130a indicating the magnitude of the ratio of the intermediate density portion detected in this manner, and further the data 110a indicating the set enlargement/reduction ratio.

**[0128]** In the output density correction unit 108, when the enlargement processing of 200% or more is selected, and additionally the ratio of the intermediate density portion is low, L2 is selected as LUT. Moreover, when the reduction processing of 50% or less is selected, and the ratio of the intermediate density portion is high, L3 is selected as LUT, the image is thus processed, and the density data 107a is outputted. In the other settings, L1 is selected, and the image is processed.

**[0129]** In the example, the luminance/density conversion table is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this example, and

the table may properly be used for more cases.

[0130] Moreover, the ratio of the intermediate gradation density portion may be divided not only vertically at 30%, but also more finely for judgment, before changing the table values.

[0131] Thus, since even at a high enlargement ratio, L2 is selected with respect to the original in which the ratio of the intermediate density portion is low (the ratio of characters is high), the intermediate gradation reproducibility can be prevented from being deteriorated with respect to the original having many intermediate gradation images, and the character edges can clearly be reproduced with respect to the character original.

[0132] Furthermore, since even at a high reduction ratio, L3 is selected with respect to the original in which the ratio of the intermediate density portion is high, the edges can be prevented from being blurred with respect to the original having many characters, and the reproducibility of the intermediate density portion can be enhanced with respect to the photograph original.

[0133] Moreover, the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 indicates an enlargement magnification, and the luminance/density conversion table is changed only when the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion is small. Therefore, in the enlargement/output of the image, the output image edge portion can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing, and the image can be enlarged without largely deteriorating the image quality.

#### [Seventh Embodiment]

[0134] The seventh embodiment of the present invention will be described. Additionally, the description of the same portion as the above-described portion of each embodiment is omitted, and the portion is denoted by the same reference numeral.

[0135] In the seventh embodiment, there is provided the density output characteristic selection switch 140 as the selecting means which can select the relation of the original image density and the density of the image outputted by the image processing device (hereinafter referred to as the density output characteristic). The density output characteristic can be selected from two types of modes, character mode and photograph mode.

[0136] In the luminance/density conversion unit 107, the luminance/density conversion table is selected in accordance with the data 140a from the density output characteristic selection switch 140, and further the data 110a indicating the set enlargement/reduction ratio.

[0137] In the luminance/density conversion unit 107, only when the enlargement processing of 200% or more is selected and the character mode is selected, L2 is selected as LUT. Moreover, when the reduction processing of 50% or less is selected, and the photograph mode is selected, L3 is selected as LUT, the image is thus processed, and the density data 107a is out-

puted. In the other settings, L1 is selected, and the image is processed.

[0138] In the seventh embodiment, the luminance/density conversion table is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this embodiment, and the table may properly be used for more cases.

[0139] As described above, according to the seventh embodiment, since even at a high enlargement ratio, L2 is selected for the original in which the character mode is selected, the intermediate gradation reproducibility can be prevented from being deteriorated with respect to the intermediate gradation image original, and the character edges can clearly be reproduced with respect to the character original.

[0140] Furthermore, since even at a high reduction ratio, L3 is selected for the original in which the photograph mode is selected, the edge can be prevented from being blurred with respect to the original with many characters, and the reproducibility of the intermediate density portion can be enhanced with respect to the photograph original.

#### [Eighth Embodiment]

[0141] The eighth embodiment of the present invention will be described with respect to Figs. 12, 13.

Additionally, the description of the same portion as the above-described portion of each embodiment is omitted, and the portion is denoted by the same reference numeral.

#### (Outline)

[0142] The outline of the eighth embodiment will first be described.

[0143] The device of the eighth embodiment comprises the scanner 101 for inputting the luminance signal of the original image, the luminance/density conversion unit 107 for converting the luminance signal to the density signal based on luminance/density conversion information, the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing the image signal, and the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106. In the device, the data calculation unit 150 has the luminance/density conversion table as the luminance/density conversion information, applies the primary conversion to the values of the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, changes the values of the luminance/density conversion table, and writes the calculated table into the luminance/density conversion unit 107.

[0144] Moreover, the data calculation unit 150 has the luminance/density conversion table as the luminance/density conversion information, applies, in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means, the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the density is enlarged with respect to the change amount of the luminance of the luminance/density conversion table during enlargement, or applies the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the density is reduced with respect to the change amount of the luminance of the luminance/density conversion table during reduction.

[0145] A concrete example will be described hereinafter with reference to Fig. 12.

[0146] In the example, the conversion table of LUT from the data calculation unit is stored in the memory of the luminance/density conversion unit 107 for converting the luminance data to the density data.

[0147] In Fig. 13 the LUT for the luminance/density conversion is represented by solid-line data in a graph. The solid-line (L) data is stored in the data calculation unit 150. In the same manner as the fifth embodiment, this is a standard luminance/density conversion, and the value is close to the luminance value with Log removed therefrom.

[0148] When the user does not set the enlargement/reduction processing of the original in the magnification instruction unit 110, or when the enlargement/reduction setting is in the range of 51% to 199%, the data calculation unit 150 writes the solid-line (L) data of Fig. 13 into the LUT of the luminance/density conversion unit 107 as it is, and the luminance/density conversion unit 107 performs the conversion based on the data.

[0149] When the user selects the enlargement processing of 200% or more in the magnification instruction unit 110, the data calculation unit calculates data (L') from stored data (L) by the primary conversion according to the following equation:

$$(L') = C(\gamma) + D,$$

in which  $C > 1$ , and D is an arbitrary constant.

The data (L') obtained by the calculation is data to make steep the luminance/density conversion as shown by a dashed line of Fig. 13.

[0150] The data is written into the LUT of the luminance/density conversion unit 107, and the luminance/density conversion unit 107 performs the data conversion based on the written data.

[0151] When the user selects the reduction processing of 50% or less in the magnification instruction unit 110, the data calculation unit 150 calculates data (L'') from the stored data (L) by the primary conversion according to the following equation:

$$(L'') = A(L) + B,$$

in which  $A < 1$ , and B is an arbitrary constant.

5 The data (L'') obtained by the calculation is data to make moderate the luminance/density conversion in the intermediate density portion as shown by a broken line of Fig. 13.

[0152] The data is written into the LUT of the luminance/density conversion unit 107, and the luminance/density conversion unit 107 performs the data conversion based on the written data.

[0153] The data converted as described above is outputted as the density data 107a.

15 [0154] The positional relation of the outputted density data and the edge portion is very similar to that of the fifth embodiment (see Figs. 3A to 3C).

[0155] In the eighth embodiment, the primary conversion is properly used in three cases: in the reduction of 50% or less, in the reduction/same size/enlargement of 51% to 199%, and in the enlargement of 200% or more. The invention is not limited to this embodiment, and the conversion may properly be used for more cases.

25 [0156] As described above, by having the luminance/density conversion table as the luminance/density conversion information, applying the primary conversion to the values of the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, and changing the values of the luminance/density conversion table, the table storage capacity can be reduced. Additionally, in the enlargement/output of the image, the edge portion of the output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be enhanced.

35 [0157] Moreover, by having the luminance/density conversion table as the luminance/density conversion information, applying, in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the density is enlarged with respect to the change amount of the luminance of the luminance/density conversion table during enlargement, or applying the primary conversion to the table values so that the change amount of the density is reduced with respect to the change amount of the luminance of the luminance/density conversion table during reduction, the table storage capacity can be reduced. Additionally, in the enlargement/output of the image, the output image edge portion can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be en-

hanced.

**[0158]** A modification formed by combining the sixth and eighth embodiments will next be described.

**[0159]** The device of the modification comprises the scanner 101 for inputting the luminance signal of the original image, the luminance/density conversion unit 107 for converting the luminance signal to the density signal based on the luminance/density conversion information, the intermediate density judgment circuit 130 for detecting the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image, the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106 for enlarging or reducing the image signal, and the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110 for setting the enlargement/reduction magnification of the image enlargement/reduction processing unit 106. The device has the luminance/density conversion table as the luminance/density conversion information, the data calculation unit applies the primary conversion to the values of the luminance/density conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting means and the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion occupying the image, and the values of the luminance/density conversion table are changed.

**[0160]** By this image processing, the table storage capacity can be reduced. In the enlargement/output of the image, the edge portion of the output print image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the output print reproducibility of the intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be enhanced.

**[0161]** Specifically in the modification, in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification instruction unit 110, during the enlargement, and when the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion is small, the table values are subjected to the primary conversion so that the change amount of the density is enlarged with respect to the change amount of the luminance of the luminance/density conversion table. Moreover, during the reduction, and when the area or ratio of the intermediate density portion is large, the table values are subjected to the primary conversion so that the change amount of the density is reduced with respect to the change amount of the luminance of the luminance/density conversion table.

**[0162]** In the enlargement/output of the image by the image processing, the edge portion of the output print image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing.

**[0163]** Additionally, the present invention may be applied to a system constituted by a plurality of apparatuses (e.g., host computer, interface apparatus, reader, printer, and the like), or to a device comprising a single apparatus (e.g., copying machine, or facsimile device).

**[0164]** Moreover, it goes without saying that the present invention can be applied to achievement by supplying the program to the system or the device. Additionally, also when the storage medium storing the program represented by the software for achieving the present invention is supplied to the system or the device, and the computer (or CPU or MPU) of the system or the device reads and executes the program code stored in the storage medium, the effect of the present invention can be realized.

**[0165]** In this case, the program code itself read from the storage medium realizes the above-described embodiment functions, and the storage medium storing the program code constitutes the present invention.

**[0166]** The storage media for supplying the program code, such as, a floppy disk, a hard disk, an optical disk, an optomagnetic disk, CD-ROM, CD-R, a magnetic tape, a nonvolatile memory card, and ROM (mask ROM, flash EEPROM, and the like) can be used.

**[0167]** Moreover, in addition to the realization of the embodiment functions by executing the program code read by the computer, needless to say, the present invention includes a case comprising performing a part or the whole of the actual processing based on the instruction of the program code by OS (operating system) or the like operating on the computer, and realizing the embodiment functions by the processing.

**[0168]** Furthermore, it goes without saying that the present invention includes a case comprising writing the program code read from the storage medium to the memory disposed in the function expansion board inserted to the computer or the function expansion unit connected to the computer, performing a part or the whole of the actual processing based on the instruction of the program code by CPU or the like disposed on the function expansion board or the function expansion unit, and realizing the embodiment functions by the processing.

**[0169]** The present invention can be applied to a system constituted by a plurality of devices, or to an apparatus comprising a single device. Furthermore, it goes without saying that the invention is applicable also to a case where the object of the invention is attained by supplying a program to a system or apparatus.

**[0170]** As many apparently widely different embodiments of the present invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific embodiments thereof except as defined in the appended claims.

## Claims

1. An image processing device for performing a conversion processing of image data, comprising:

input means for inputting image data;

enlargement/reduction magnification setting means for setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by said input means;

data converting means having a plurality of image data conversion tables and using one selected conversion table to convert said inputted image data to output data; and  
table selecting means for selecting said conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by said enlargement/reduction magnification setting means.

2. An image processing device according to Claim 1, wherein said table selecting means selects the conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is enlarged with respect to the change amount of input image data when the enlargement magnification is set to a predetermined value or more.
3. An image processing device according to Claim 1, wherein said table selecting means selects the conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is reduced with respect to the change amount of input image data when the reduction magnification is set to a predetermined value or less.
4. An image processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising judging means for judging from the inputted image data whether or not image includes a multiplicity of data of an intermediate density portion, wherein  
when the enlargement magnification is set to a predetermined value or more and said judging means judges that the multiplicity of data of the intermediate density portion are not included, said table selecting means selects the conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is enlarged with respect to the change amount of input image data.
5. An image processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising judging means for judging from the inputted image data whether or not image includes a multiplicity of data of an intermediate density portion, wherein  
when the reduction magnification is set to a predetermined value or less and said judging means judges that the multiplicity of data of the intermediate density portion are included, said table selecting means selects the conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is reduced with respect to the change amount of input image data.
6. An image processing device according to Claim 1,

further comprising mode selecting means for selecting either a character mode or a photograph mode as a data conversion mode in said data converting means, wherein

when the enlargement magnification is set to a predetermined value or more and said mode selecting means selects the character mode, said table selecting means selects the conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is enlarged with respect to the change amount of input image data.

7. An image processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising mode selecting means for selecting either a character mode or a photograph mode as a data conversion mode in said data converting means, wherein  
when the reduction magnification is set to a predetermined value or less and said mode selecting means selects the photograph mode, said table selecting means selects the conversion table in which a change amount of output image data is reduced with respect to the change amount of input image data.
8. An image processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising luminance/density converting means for converting luminance data to density data, wherein  
said input means inputs the luminance data, and said luminance/density converting means converts the luminance data to the density data and outputs the density data, and  
said data converting means uses the selected table to input the density data from said luminance/density converting means, and converts the density data to output density data.
9. An image processing device according to Claim 1, wherein said input means inputs luminance data, and said data converting means uses the selected table to convert the inputted luminance data to density data.
10. An image processing device for performing a conversion processing of image data, comprising:

input means for inputting image data;  
enlargement/reduction magnification setting means for setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by said input means;  
table calculating means for calculating a conversion table for converting input image data to output image data; and  
data converting means using the conversion table calculated by said calculating means to con-

- vert said inputted image data to output data,  
 wherein  
 said table calculating means calculates said  
 conversion table in accordance with the en-  
 largement/reduction magnification set by said  
 enlargement/reduction magnification setting  
 means.
11. An image processing device according to Claim 10,  
 wherein said calculating means obtains the conver-  
 sion table by applying primary conversion to  
 prestored conversion table values.
12. An image processing device according to Claim 11,  
 wherein when the enlargement magnification is set  
 to a predetermined value or more, said table calcu-  
 lating means applies the primary conversion to ob-  
 tain the conversion table in which a change amount  
 of the output image data is enlarged with respect to  
 the change amount of the input image data.
13. An image processing device according to Claim 11,  
 wherein when the reduction magnification is set to  
 a predetermined value or less, said table calculating  
 means applies the primary conversion to obtain the  
 conversion table in which a change amount of the  
 output image data is reduced with respect to the  
 change amount of the input image data.
14. An image processing device according to Claim 11,  
 further comprising judging means for judging from  
 the inputted image data whether or not image in-  
 cludes a multiplicity of data of an intermediate den-  
 sity portion, wherein  
 when the enlargement magnification is set to  
 a predetermined value or more and said judging  
 means judges that the multiplicity of data of the in-  
 termediate density portion are not included, said ta-  
 ble calculating means applies the primary conver-  
 sion to obtain the conversion table in which a  
 change amount of the output image data is enlarged  
 with respect to the change amount of the input im-  
 age data.
15. An image processing device according to Claim 11,  
 further comprising judging means for judging from  
 the inputted image data whether or not image in-  
 cludes a multiplicity of data of an intermediate den-  
 sity portion, wherein  
 when the reduction magnification is set to a  
 predetermined value or less and said judging  
 means judges that the multiplicity of data of the in-  
 termediate density portion are included, said table  
 calculating means applies the primary conversion  
 to obtain the conversion table in which a change  
 amount of the output image data is reduced with re-  
 spect to the change amount of the input image data.
16. An image processing device according to Claim 11,  
 further comprising mode selecting means for se-  
 lecting either a character mode or a photograph  
 mode as a data conversion mode in said data con-  
 verting means, wherein  
 when the enlargement magnification is set to  
 a predetermined value or more and said mode se-  
 lecting means selects the character mode, said ta-  
 ble calculating means applies the primary conver-  
 sion to obtain the conversion table in which a  
 change amount of the output image data is enlarged  
 with respect to the change amount of the input im-  
 age data.
17. An image processing device according to Claim 11,  
 further comprising mode selecting means for se-  
 lecting either a character mode or a photograph  
 mode as a data conversion mode in said data con-  
 verting means, wherein  
 when the reduction magnification is set to a  
 predetermined value or less and said mode select-  
 ing means selects the photograph mode, said table  
 calculating means applies the primary conversion  
 to obtain the conversion table in which a change  
 amount of the output image data is reduced with re-  
 spect to the change amount of the input image data.
18. An image processing device according to Claim 10,  
 further comprising luminance/density converting  
 means for converting luminance data to density da-  
 ta, wherein  
 said input means inputs the luminance data,  
 and said luminance/density converting means  
 converts the luminance data to the density data  
 and outputs the density data, and  
 said data converting means uses the table cal-  
 culated by the table calculating means to input  
 the density data from said luminance/density  
 converting means, and converts the density da-  
 ta to output density data.
19. An image processing device according to Claim 10,  
 wherein said input means inputs luminance data,  
 and said data converting means uses the table cal-  
 culated by the table calculating means to convert  
 the inputted luminance data to density data.
20. An image processing method for performing a con-  
 version processing of image data, comprising:  
 an input process of inputting image data;  
 an enlargement/reduction magnification setting  
 process of setting an enlargement/reduction  
 magnification of the image data inputted by said  
 input process;  
 a data converting process having a plurality of  
 image data conversion tables and using one

selected conversion table to convert said input-  
ted image data to output data; and  
a table selecting process of selecting said con-  
version table in accordance with the enlarge-  
ment/reduction magnification set by said en- 5  
largement/reduction magnification setting  
process.

21. An image processing method, comprising:

an input process of inputting image data; 10  
an enlargement/reduction magnification setting  
process of setting an enlargement/reduction  
magnification of the image data inputted by said  
input process; 15  
a table calculating process for calculating a  
conversion table for converting input image da-  
ta to output image data; and  
a data converting process for using the conver- 20  
sion table calculated by said calculating proc-  
ess to convert said inputted image data to out-  
put data, wherein  
said table calculating process comprises calcu-  
lating said conversion table in accordance with 25  
the enlargement/reduction magnification set by  
said enlargement/reduction magnification set-  
ting process.

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FIG. 1

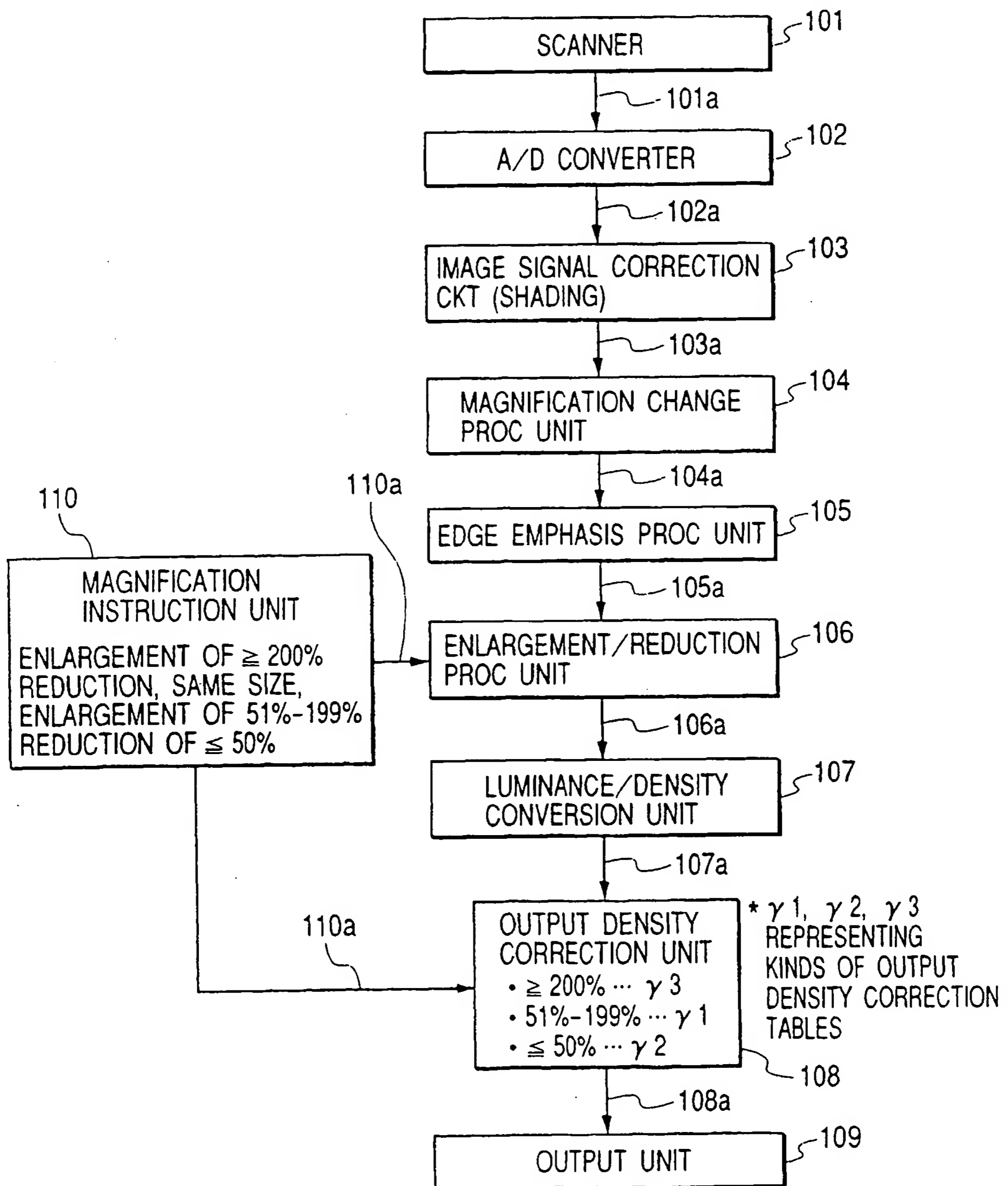
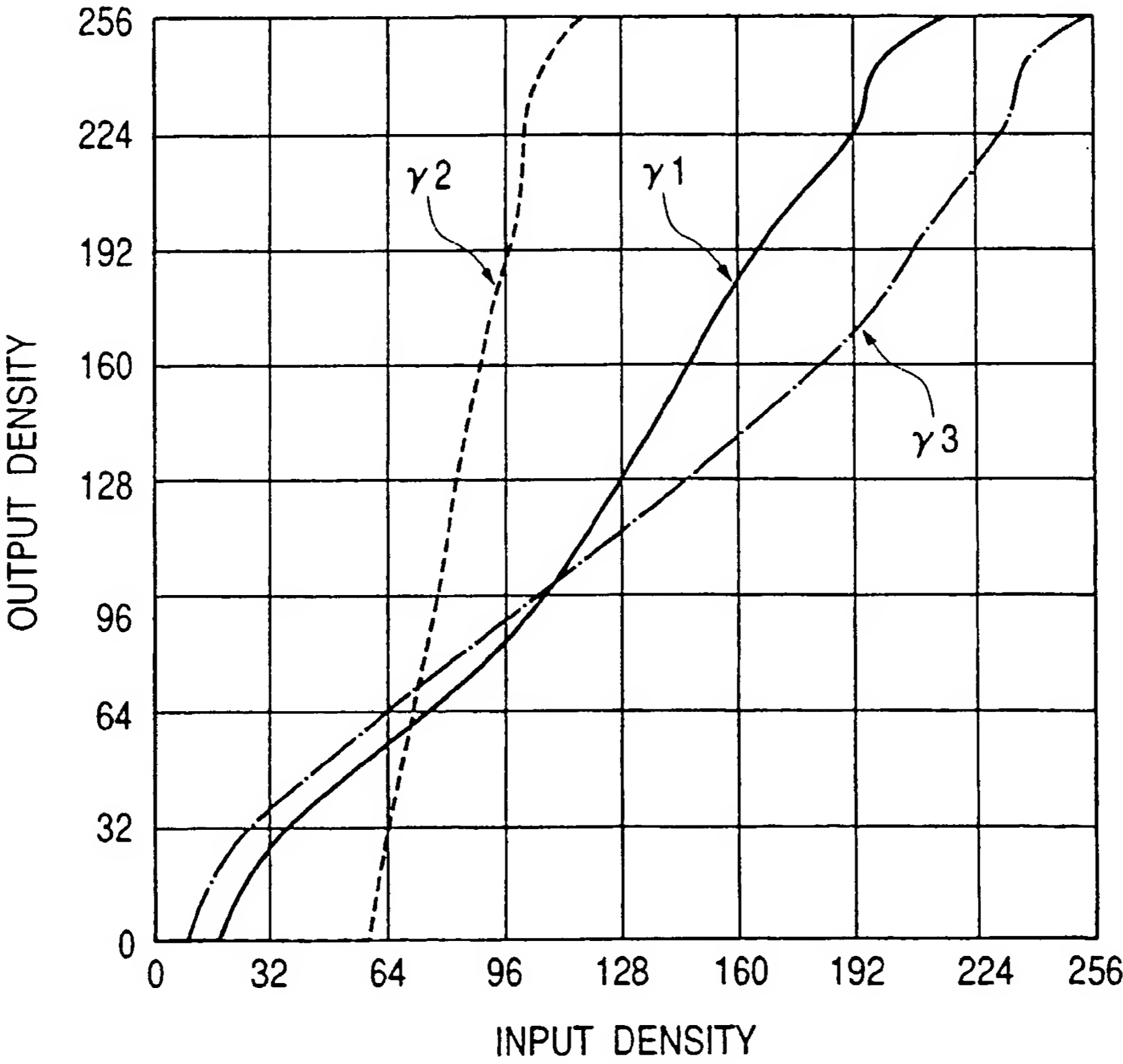
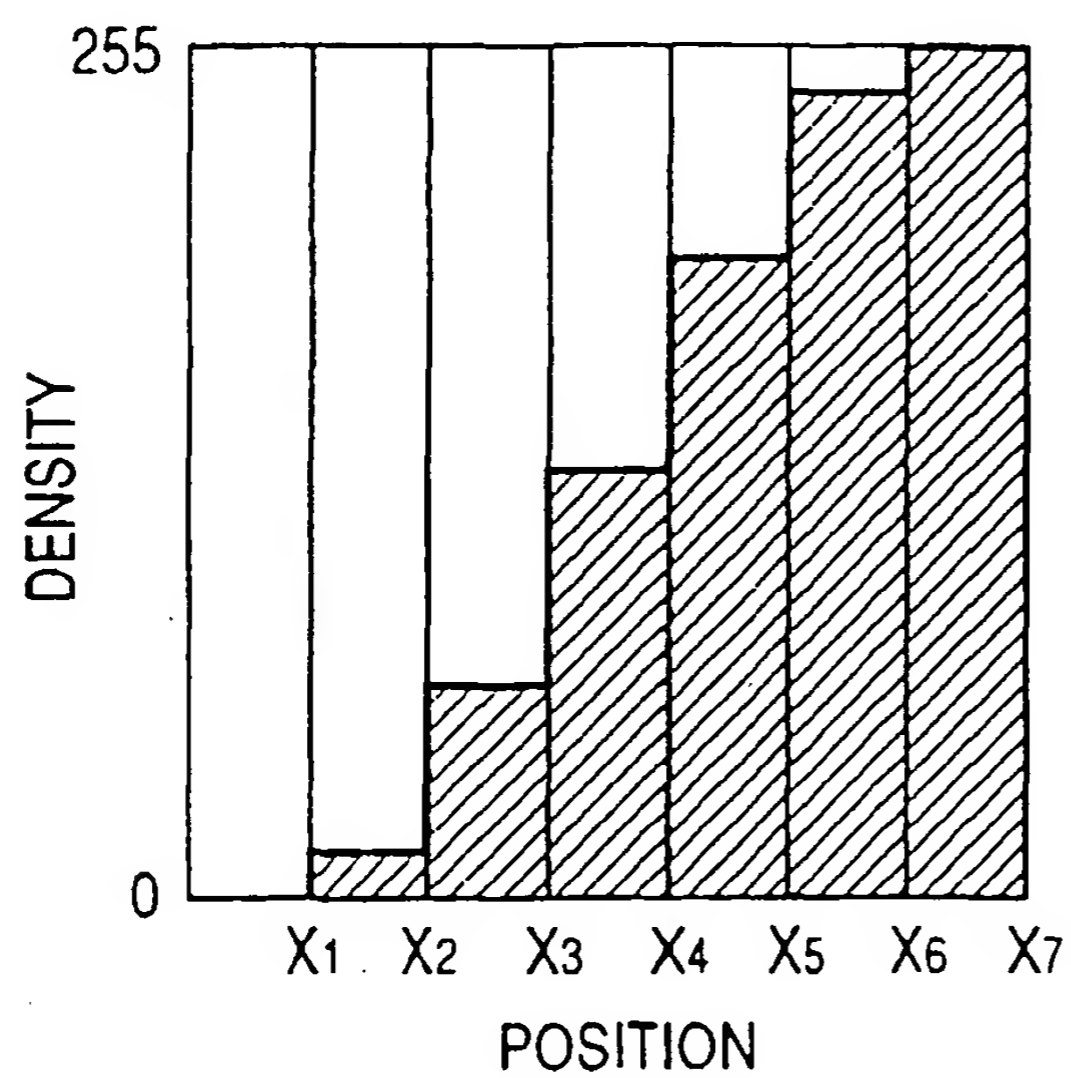


FIG. 2

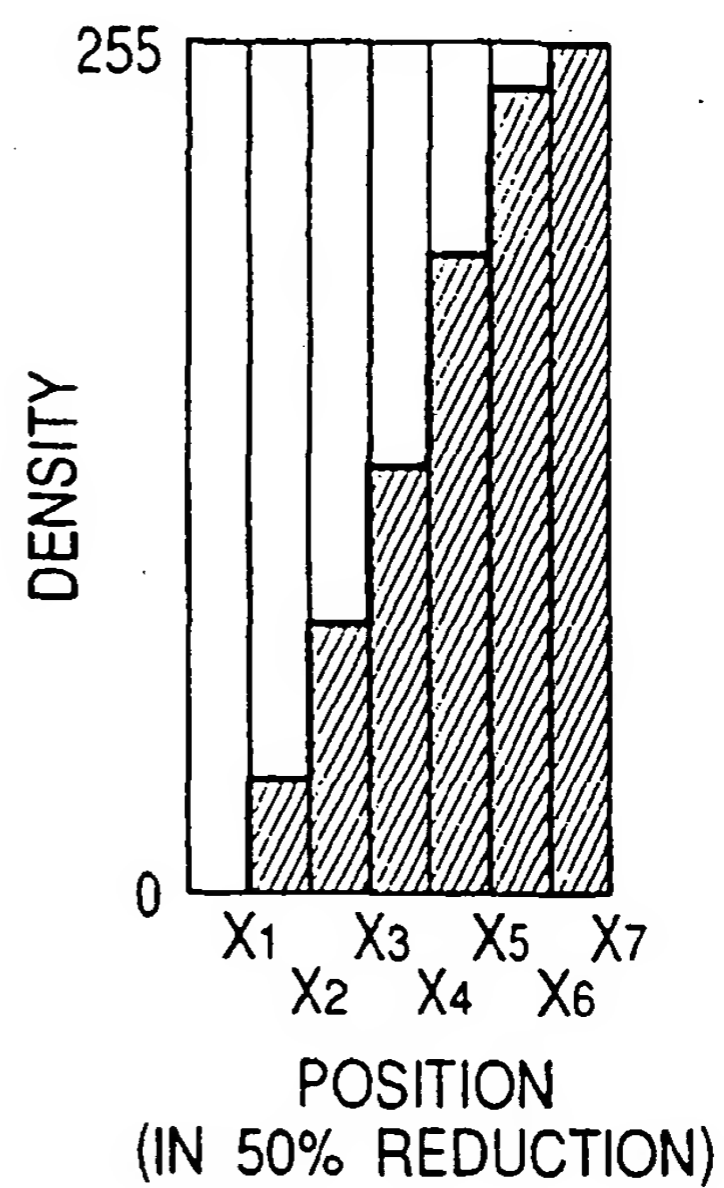
OUTPUT DENSITY CORRECTION TABLE



*FIG. 3A*



*FIG. 3C*



*FIG. 3B*

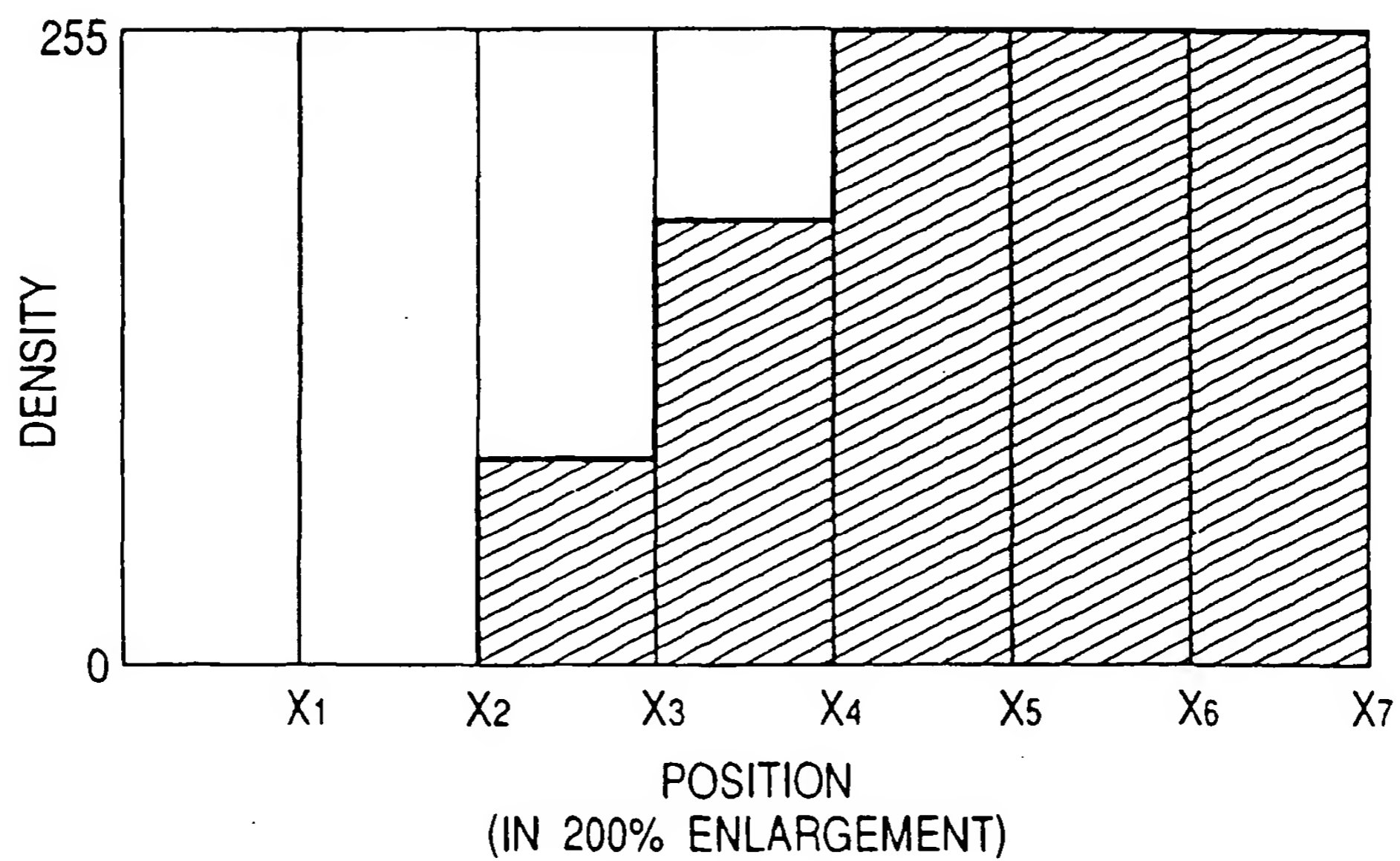


FIG. 4

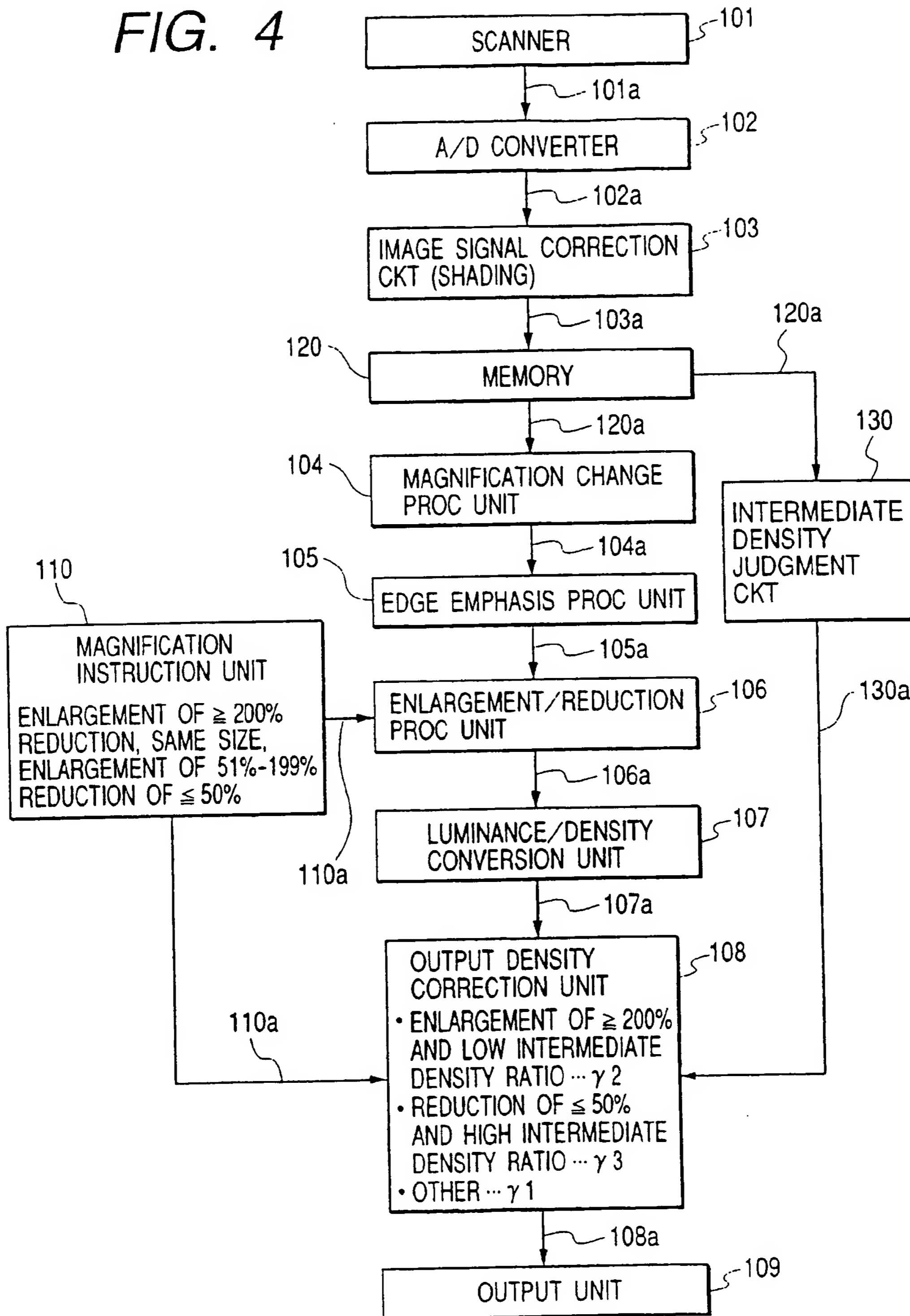


FIG. 5

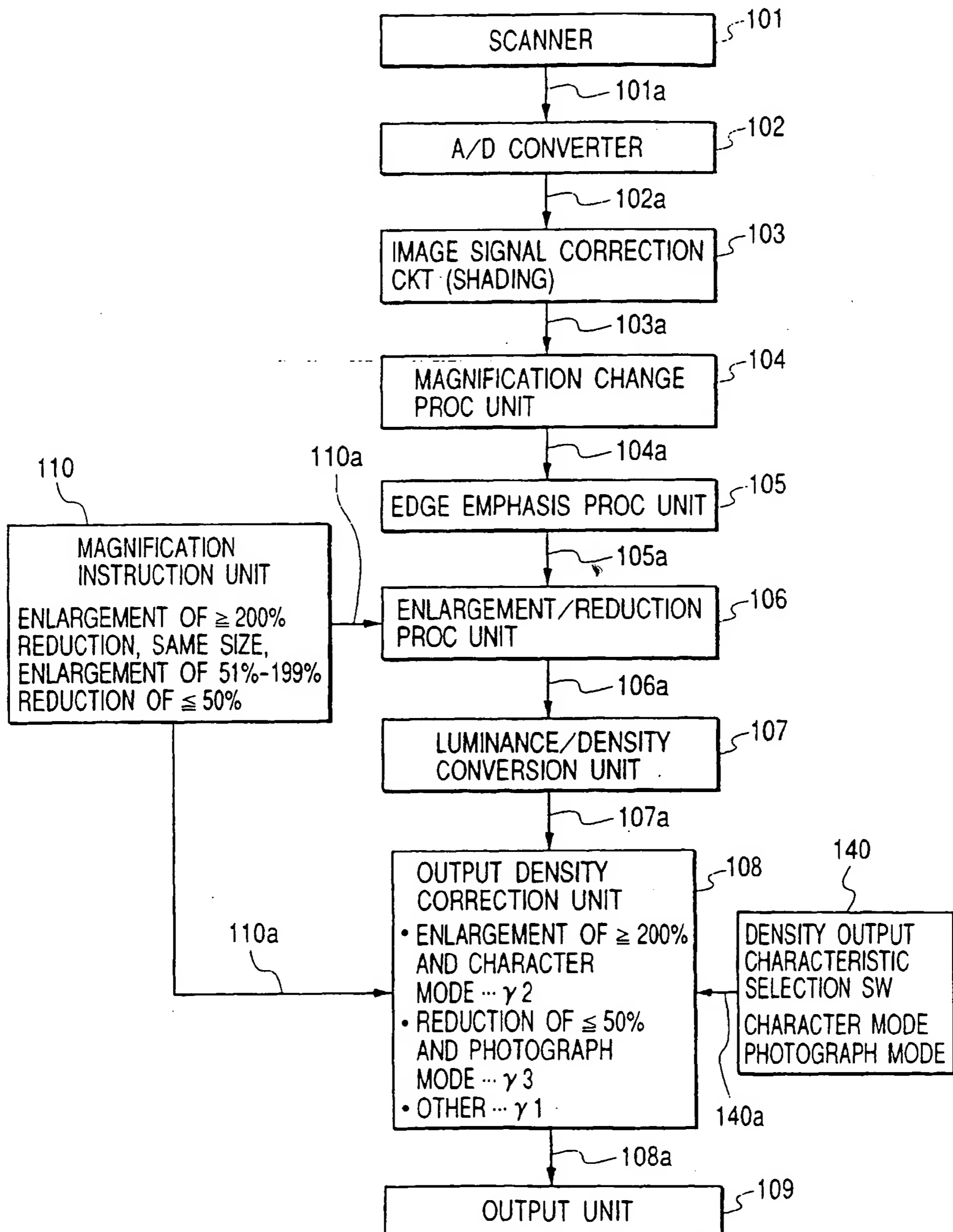


FIG. 6

(OUTPUT DENSITY CORRECTION TABLE)

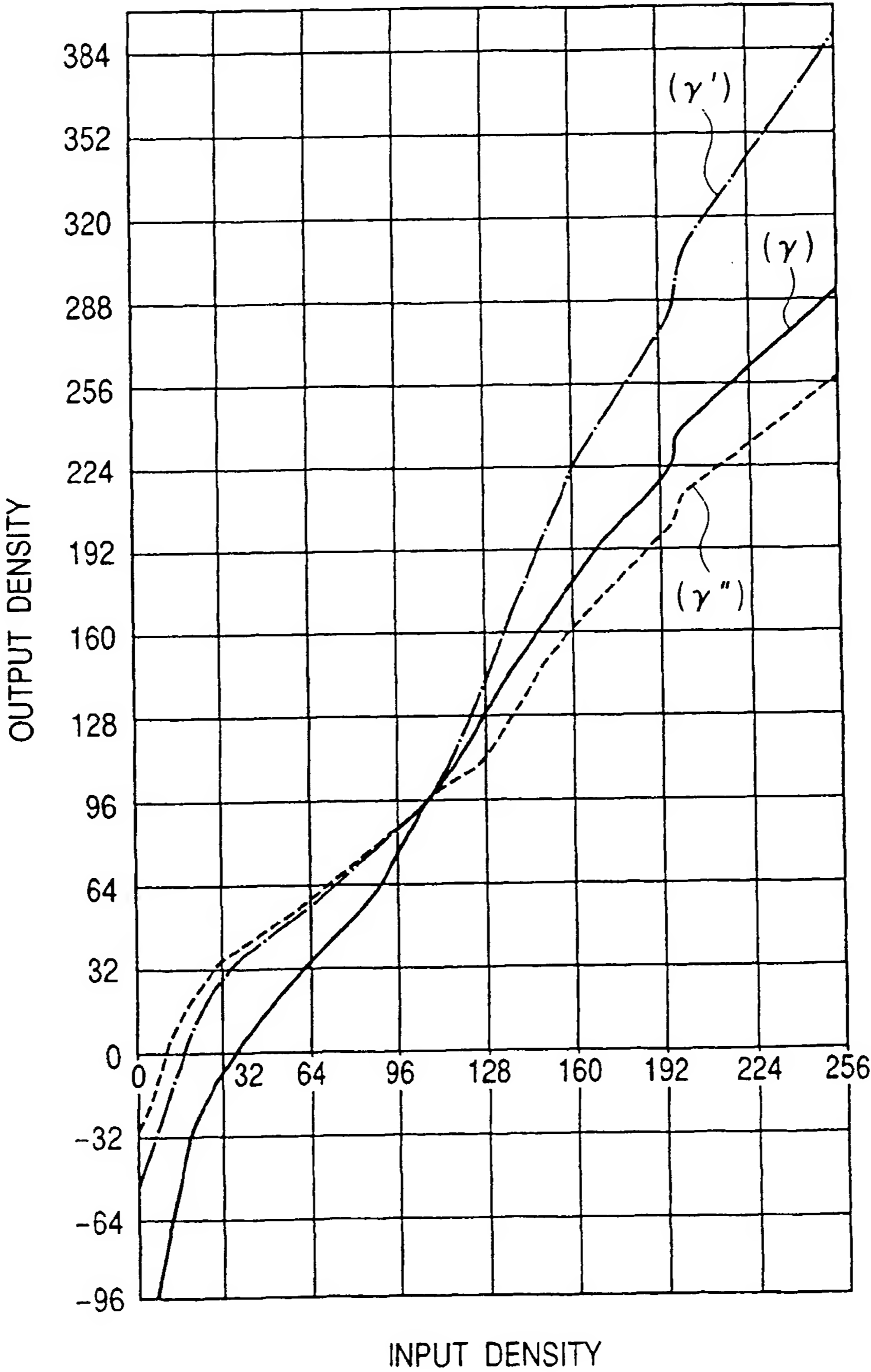


FIG. 7

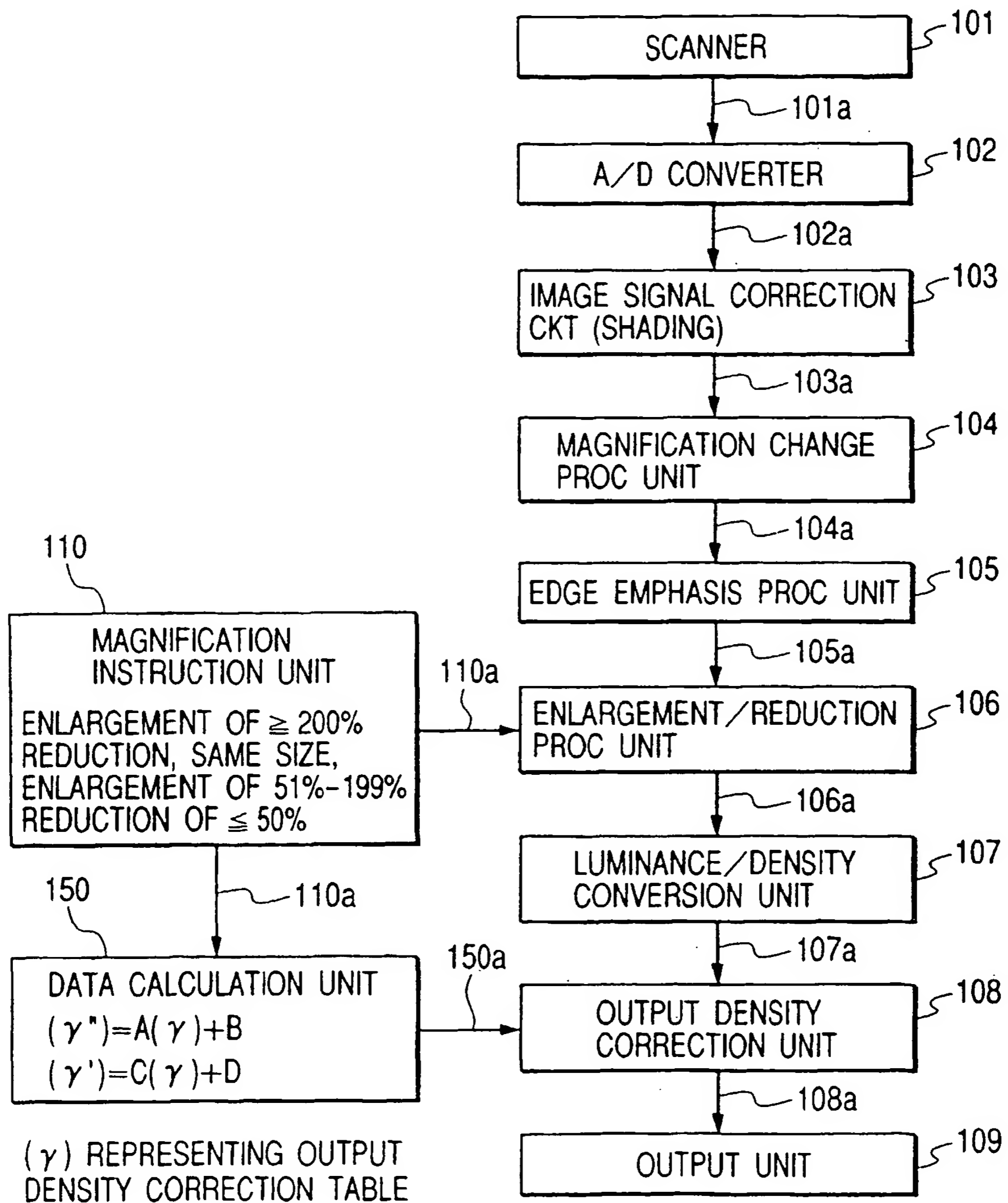
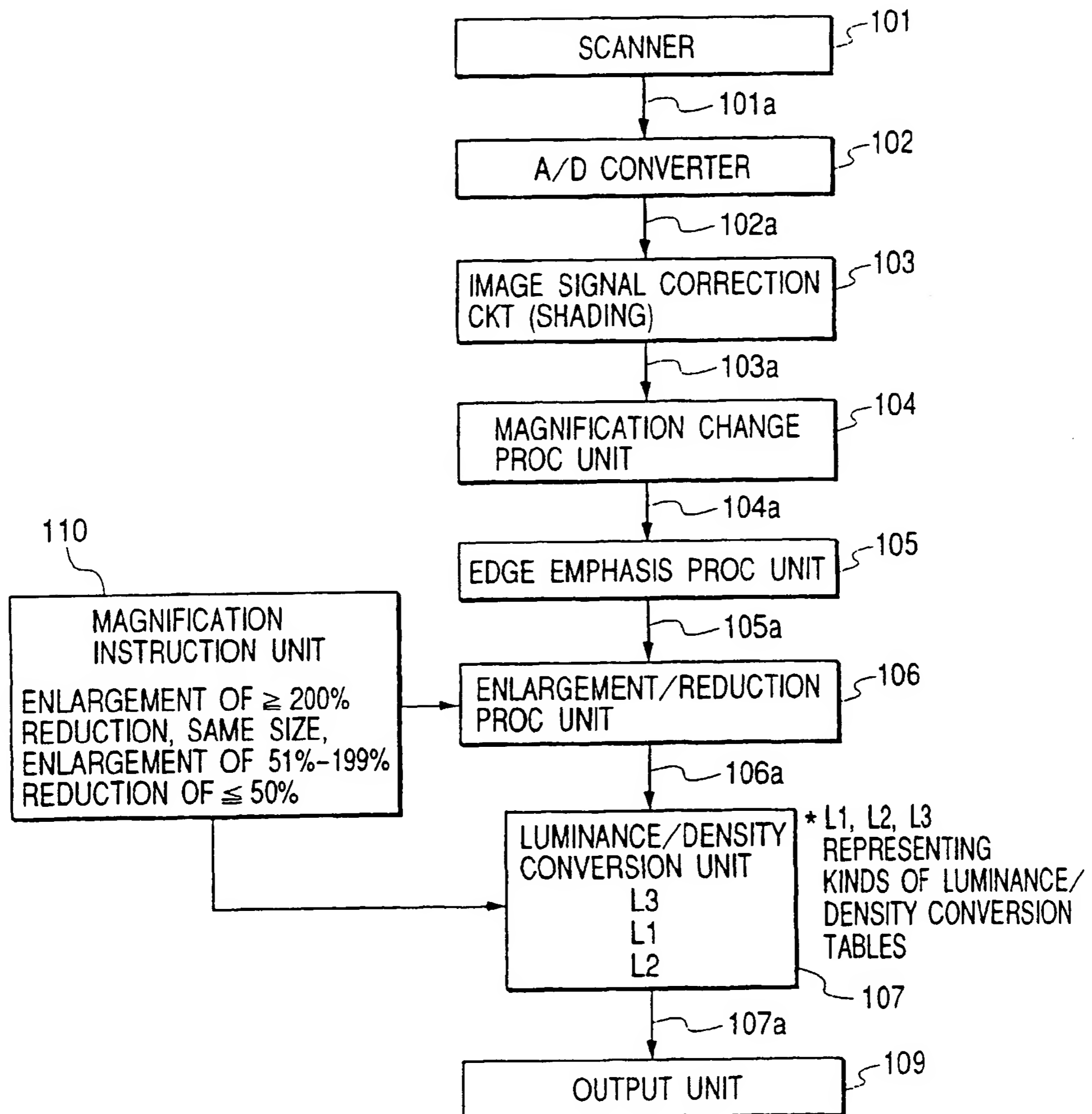


FIG. 8



**FIG. 9**

(LUMINANCE/DENSITY CONVERSION TABLE)

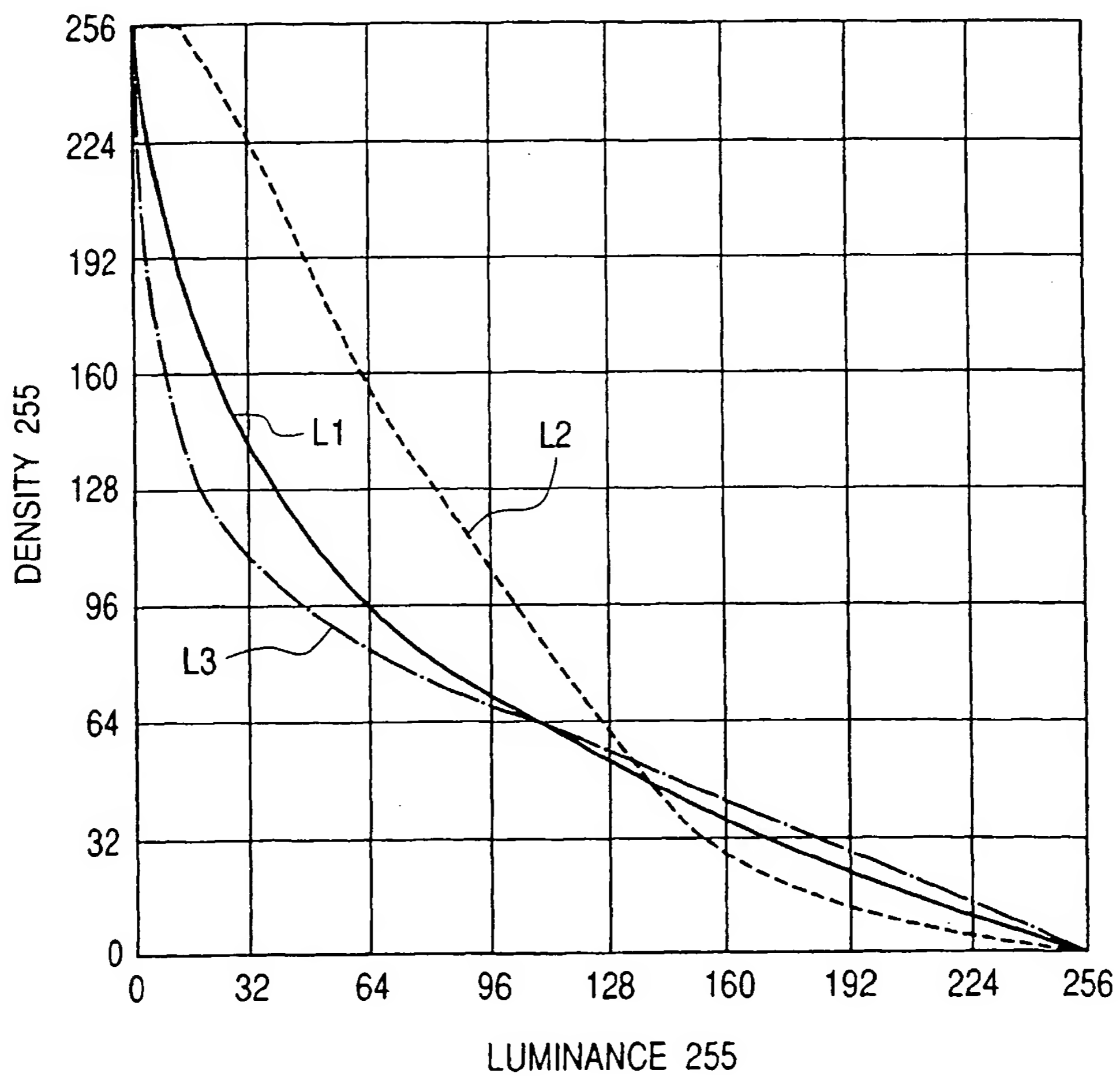


FIG. 10

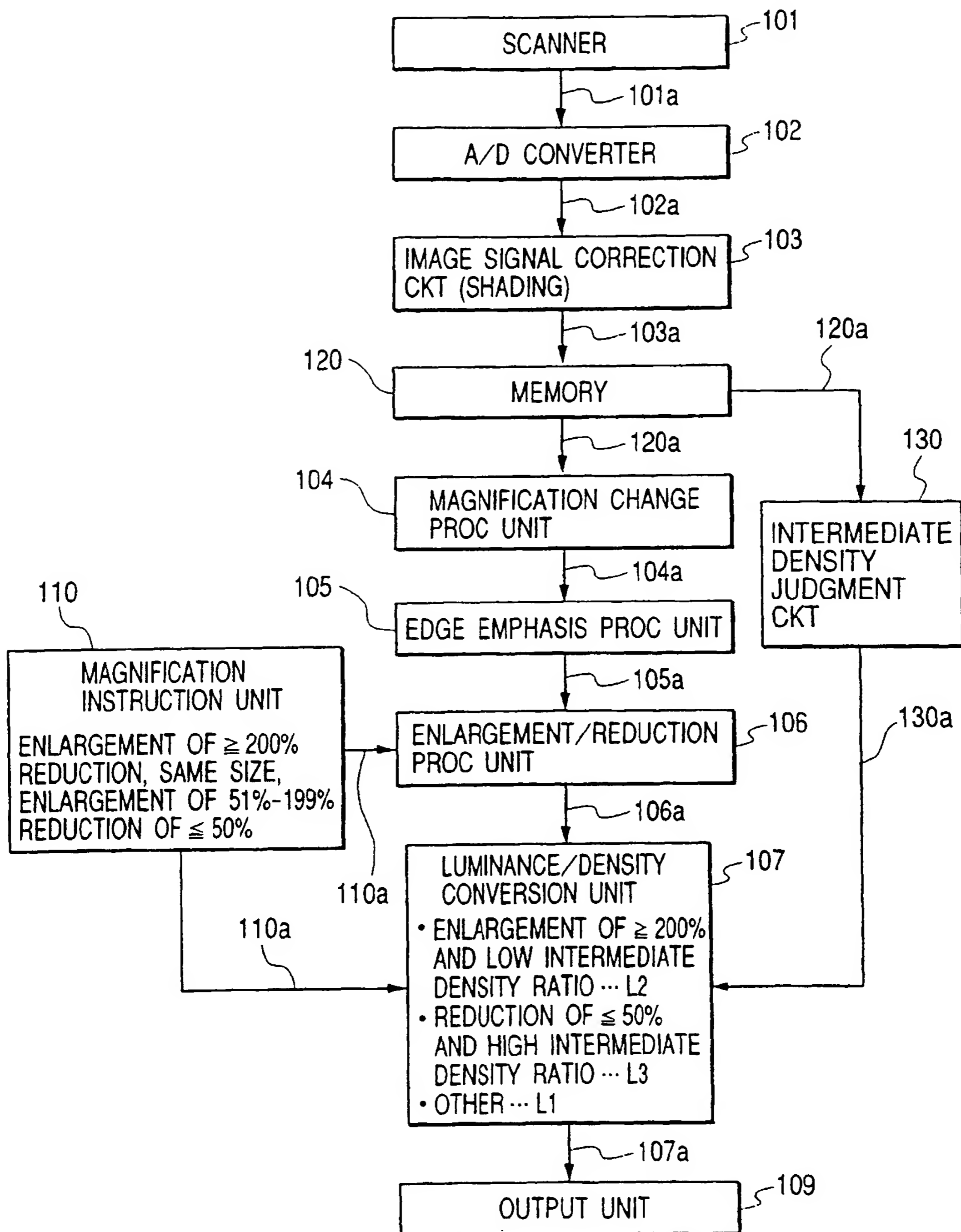


FIG. 11

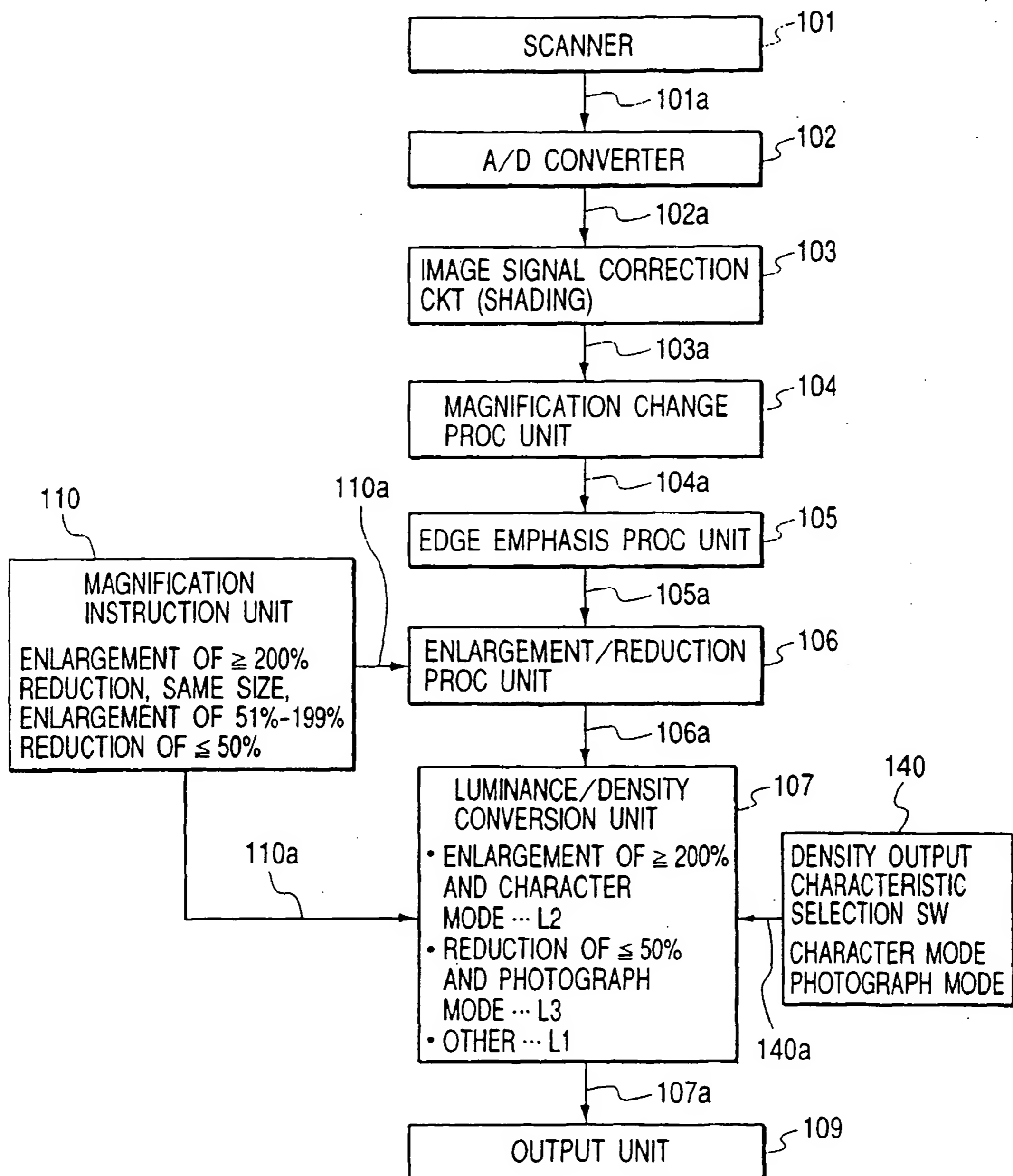
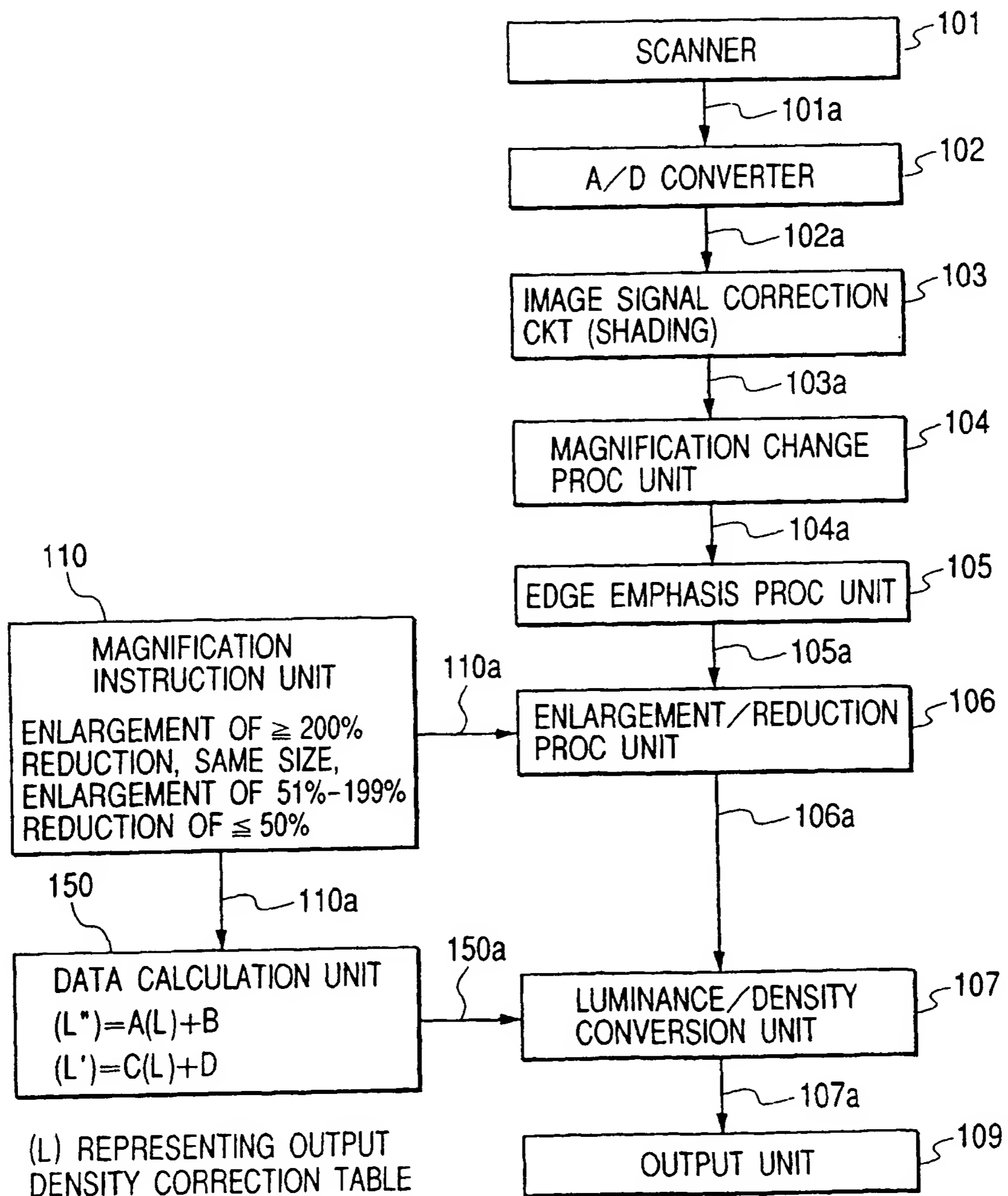
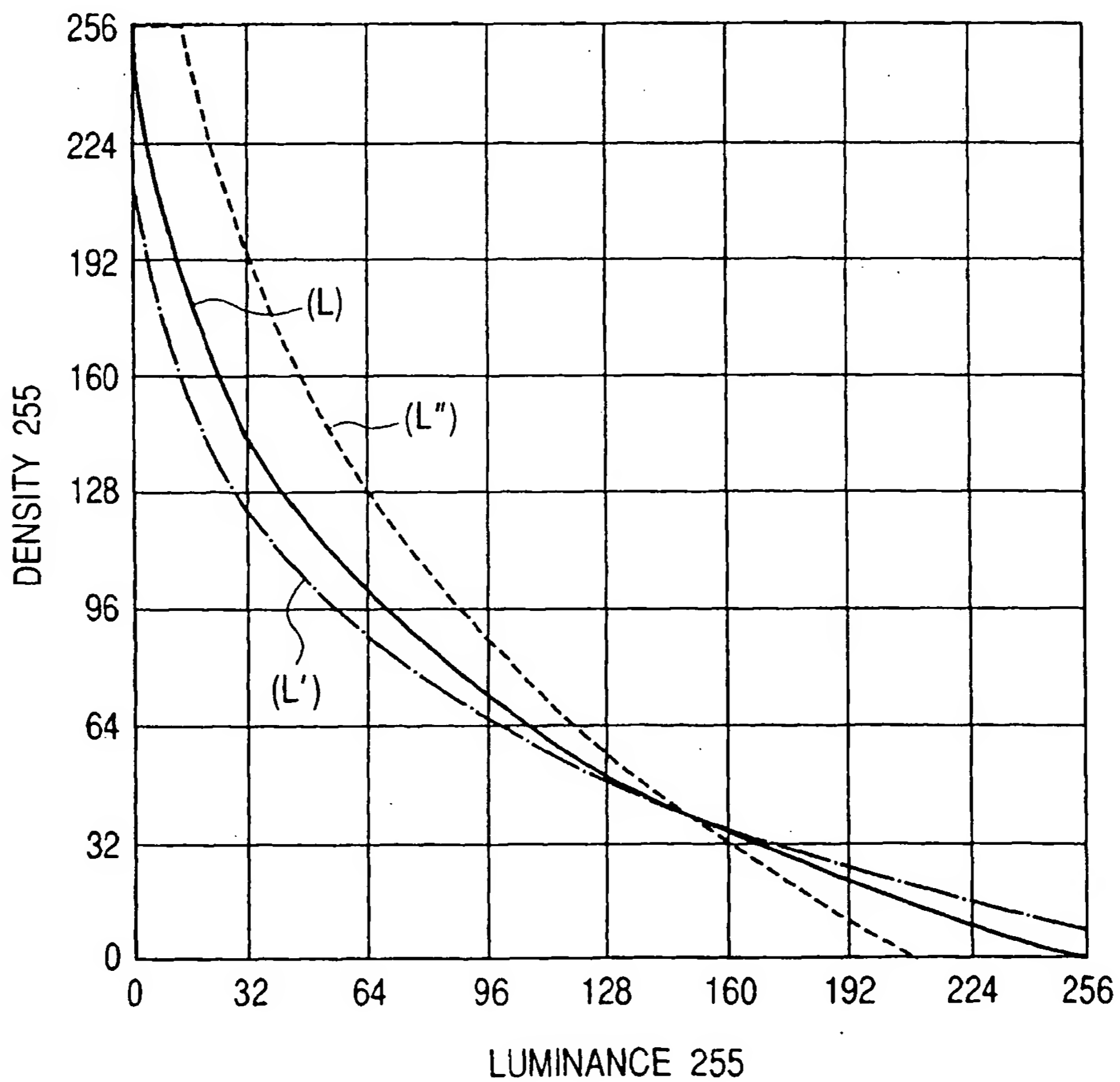


FIG. 12

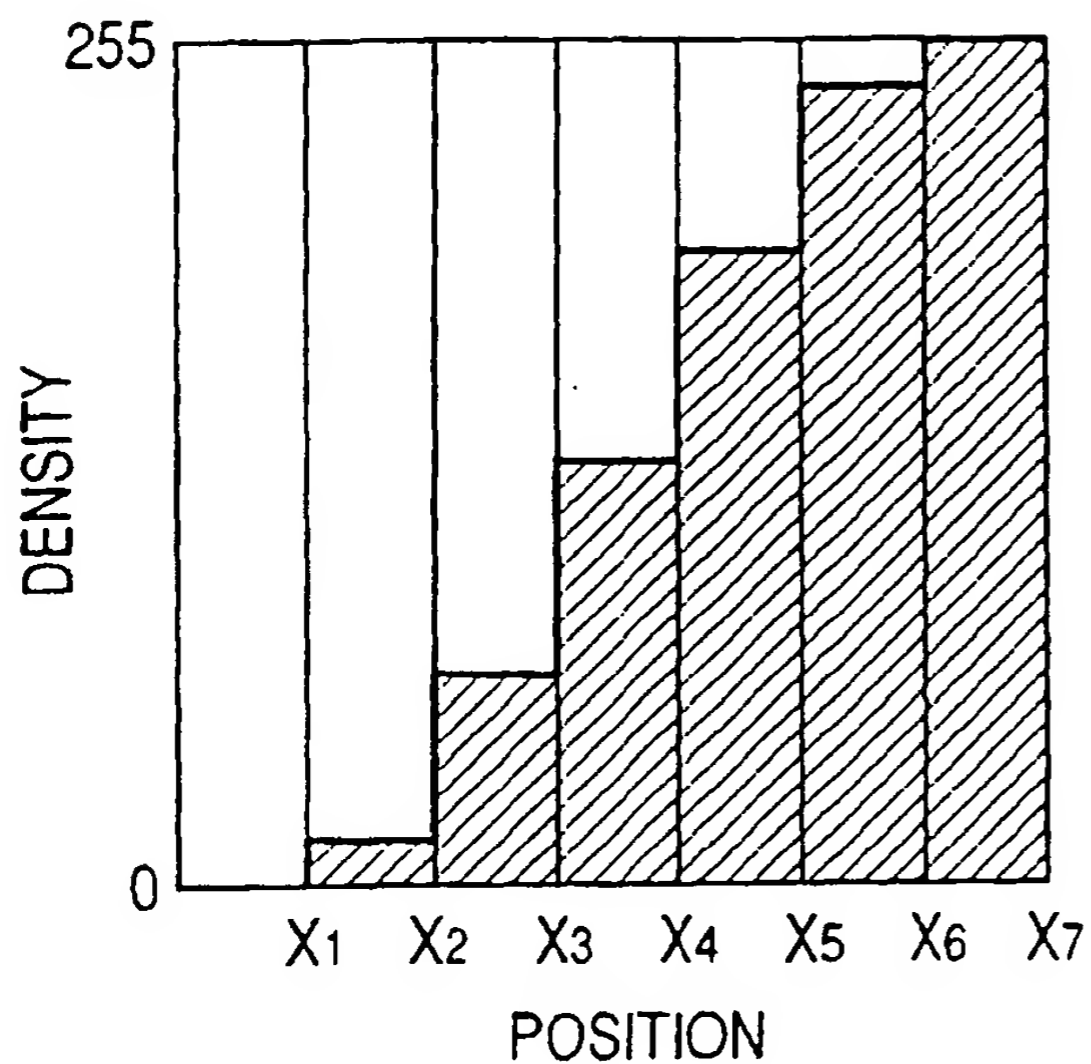


**FIG. 13**

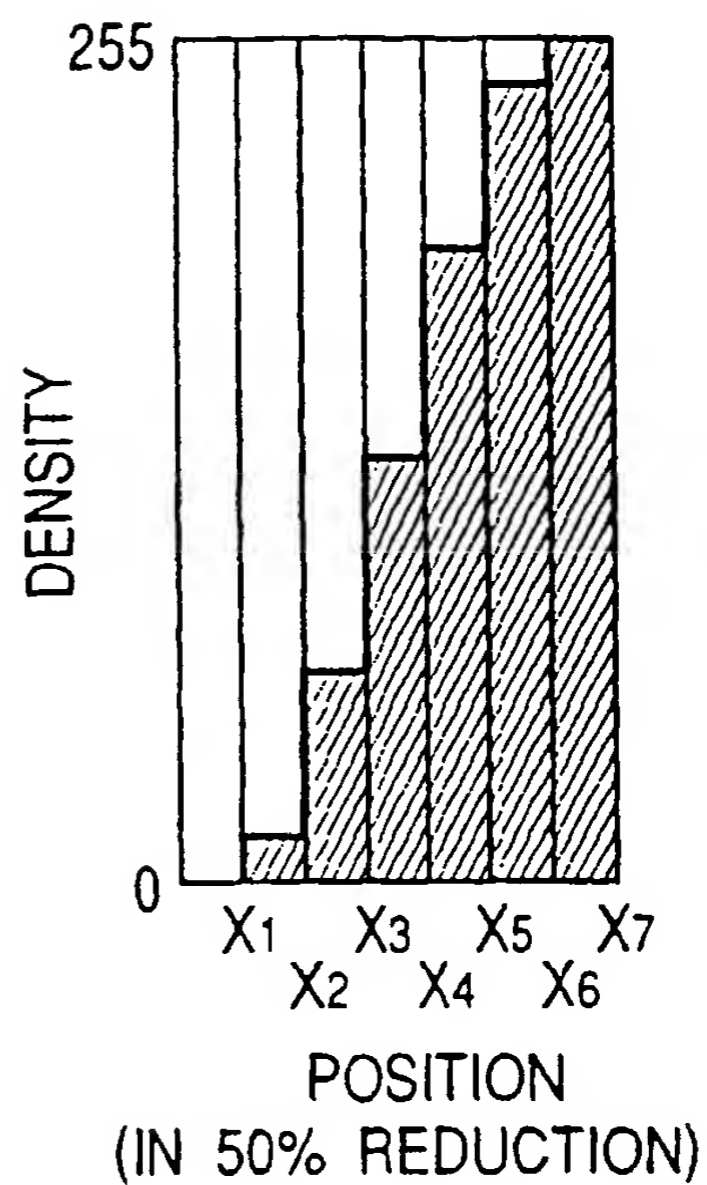
(LUMINANCE/DENSITY CONVERSION TABLE)



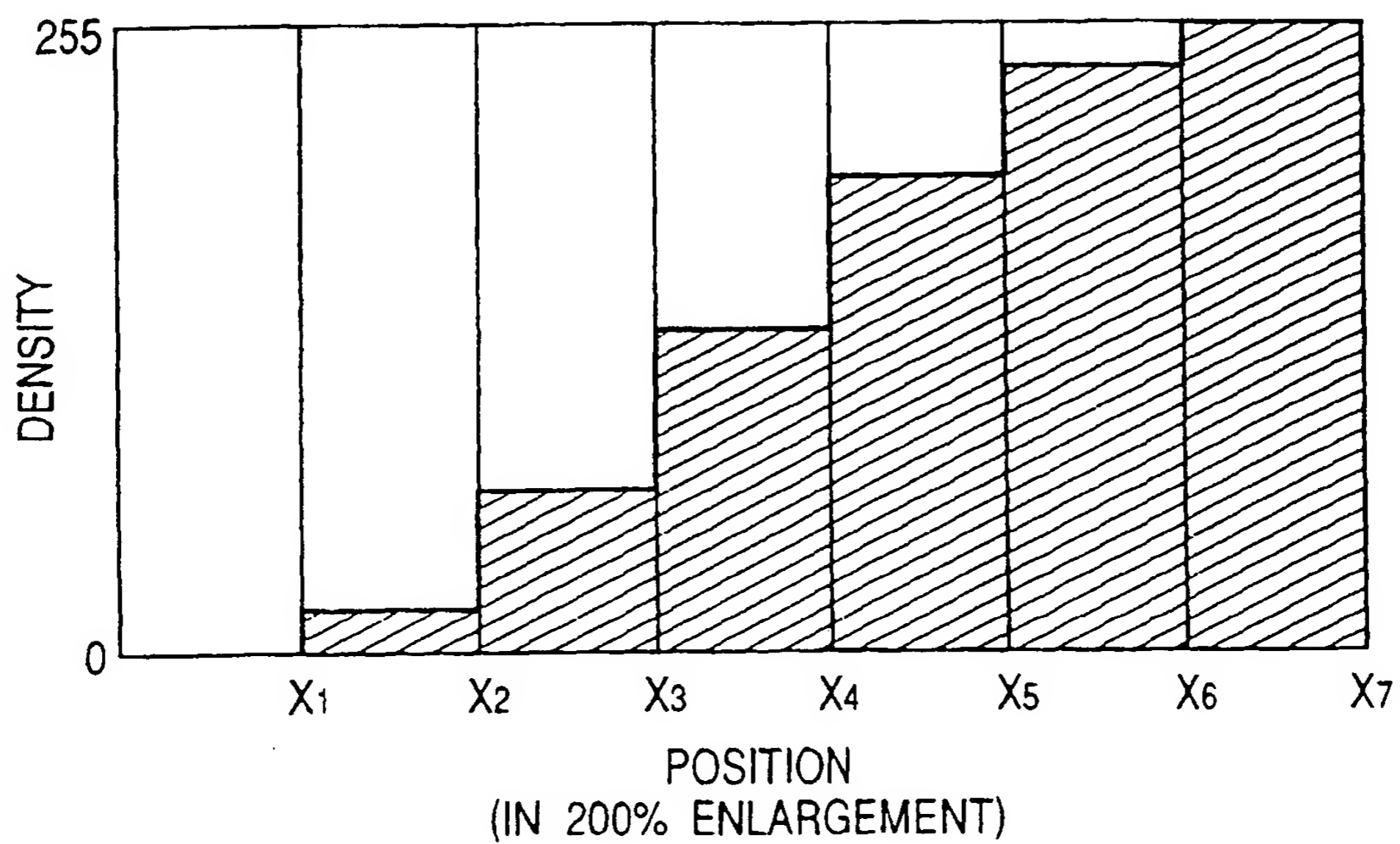
*FIG. 14A*



*FIG. 14C*



*FIG. 14B*



(19)



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(11)

EP 0 998 121 A3

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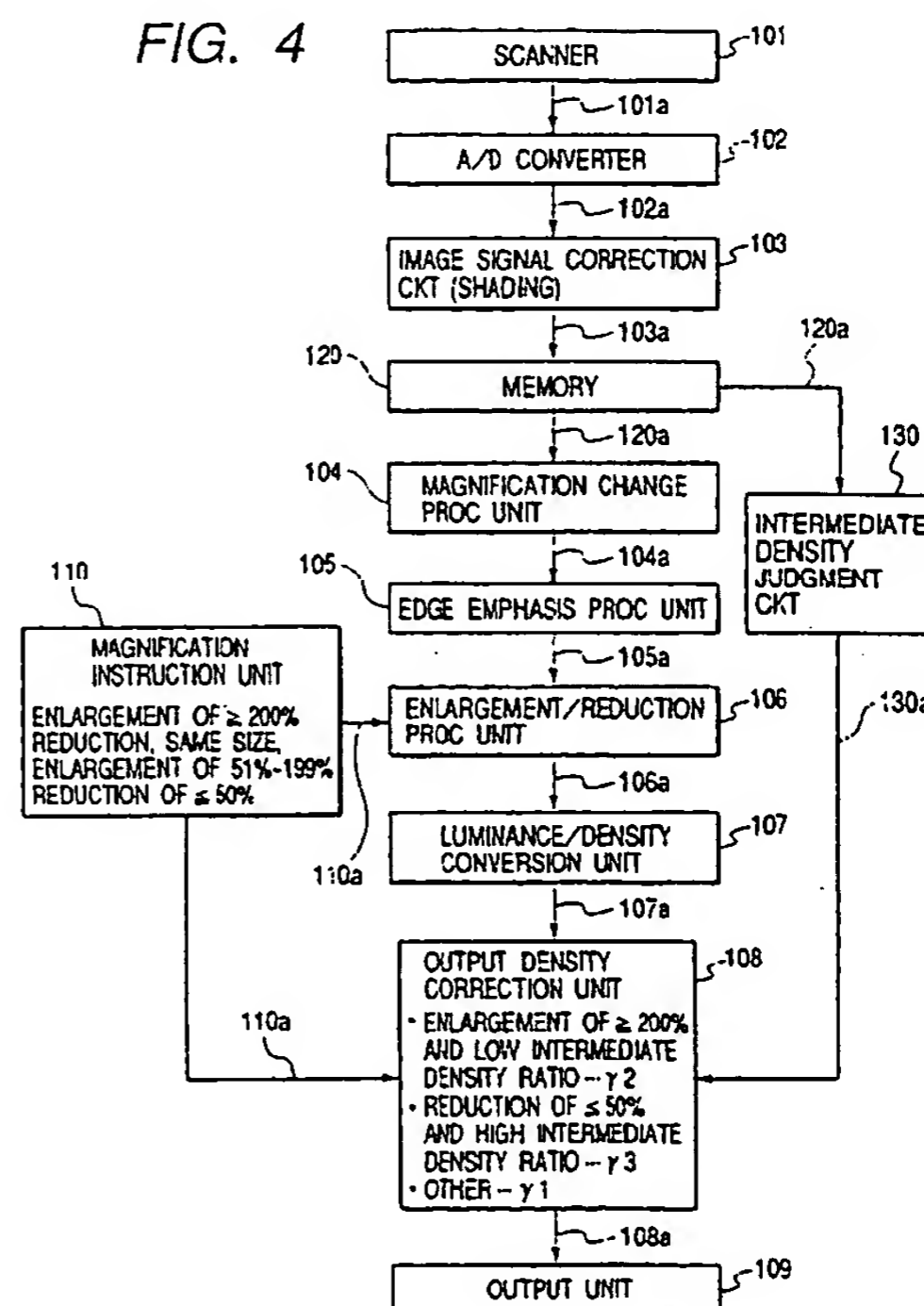
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## (54) Image processing device and image processing method

(57) There is disclosed an image processing device for performing a conversion processing of image data, comprises an input unit for inputting image data, an enlargement/reduction magnification setting unit for setting an enlargement/reduction magnification of the image data inputted by the input unit, a data converting unit having a plurality of image data conversion tables and using one selected conversion table to convert the inputted image data to output data, and a table selecting unit for selecting the conversion table in accordance with the enlargement/reduction magnification set by the enlargement/reduction magnification setting unit. In the enlargement/output of the image by the image processing, the edge portion of output image can be prevented from being blurred by the enlargement processing. Moreover, in the reduction/output of the image, even when the reduction processing is performed, the reproducibility of intermediate gradation density fine lines in the input image can be enhanced.

FIG. 4





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 30 8406

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			H04N G06T
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 December 2002	Examiner Hardell, A
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